

Nine MPs rally to Council for Social Democracy

Nine right-wing Labour backbenchers were recruited yesterday to the proposed Council for Social Democracy and there is the possibility of more coming forward soon. It was clear last night that some

potential recruits were annoyed they had not been invited with the nine MPs to a meeting in Dr David Owen's Commons room. He said the birth of a social democratic party was very close.

More Labour recruits likely

By Michael Hartfield
Political Reporter
The Council for Social Democracy, the proposed Labour Party breakaway group, yesterday recruited nine right-wing backbenchers with the possibility of more supporters in the near future.
But after a meeting in Dr David Owen's room at the House of Commons, one of the leading members of the so-called "gang of four", it was clear last night that some potential recruits were annoyed that they had not been asked to attend.
Those who were invited to the meeting and declared their support were: Mr Tom Bradley (Leicester East), Mr Richard Cawshaw (Liverpool, South), a deputy Speaker in the Commons: Mr Tom Ellis (Wrexham), Mr John Horam (Gateshead, West), Mr Robert MacLennan (Cathness and Sutherland), Mr John Roper (Farnworth), Mr Neville Sanderson (Hague and Harlington), Mr Mike Thomas (Newcastle upon Tyne, East) and Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby).

forming a breakaway group unless there is a dramatic reversal of Labour policy, an event which it regards as extremely unlikely.
Dr Owen said on BBC radio yesterday that the birth of a social democratic party was "very close". It would take a few months to gather support and prepare for the split with the Labour Party.
He did, however, add: "If you believe in miracles, I suppose it is possible that Michael Foot could come forward with such a complete change in direction of the Labour Party then we would be bound to consider it."

Dr Owen said it was not possible to set up a new party without such a complete change in direction of the Labour Party then we would be bound to consider it.

leadership and we will give the leadership. We have got to involve thousands and eventually you have got to involve millions.
"I think what we will hope to do over the next few months is to demonstrate to people that the real Labour Party has changed beyond the point where you can continue to honestly support it."

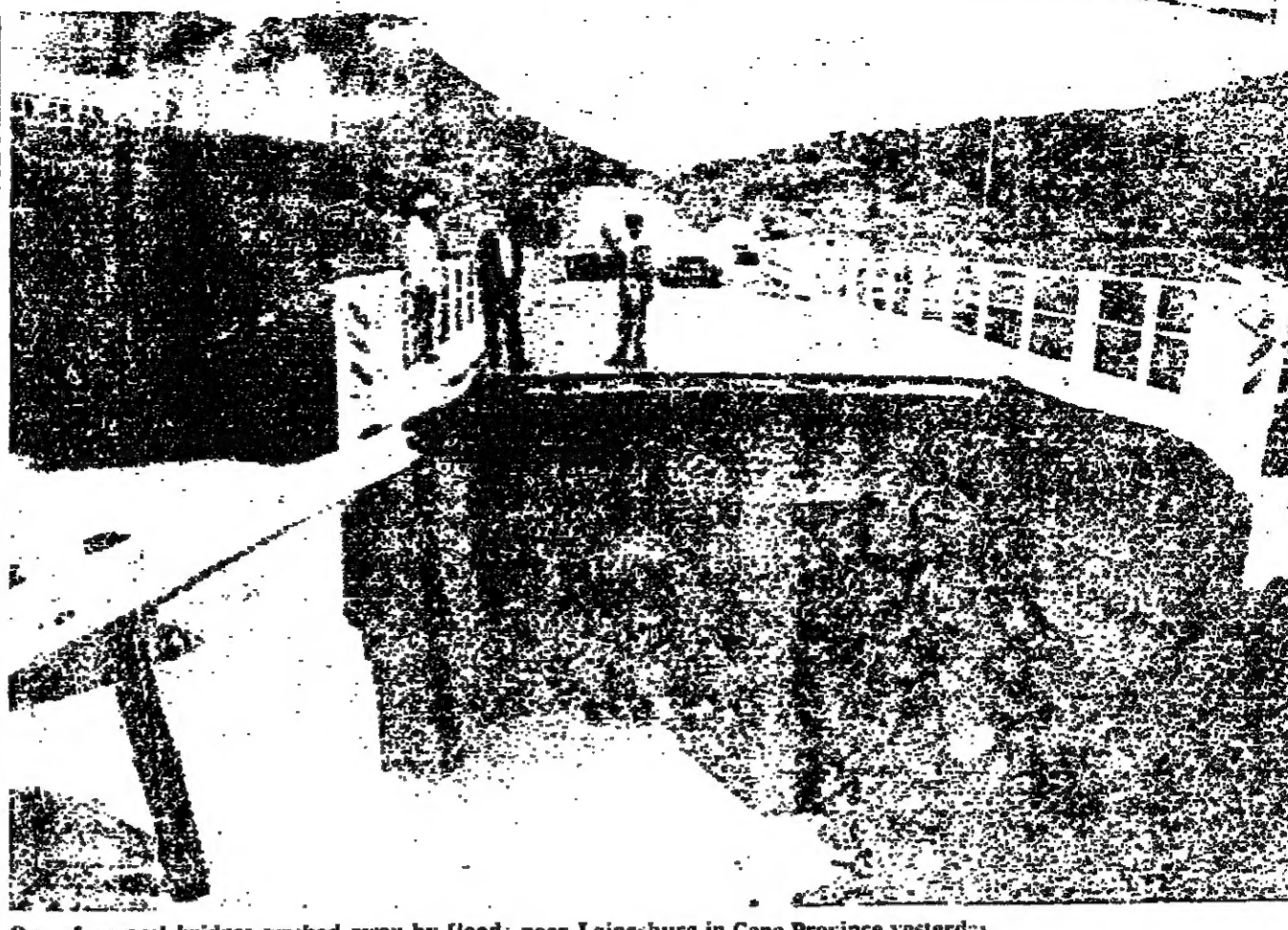
Mr Rodgers said the nine recruits were all still members of the Labour Party.
"But I was afraid in the light of all that has gone before that it is very possible that we are now moving away and to something new, however said that will be," Mr Rodgers said in an interview with the commercial television's News of the Week.

Asked when the rebel MPs would resign the whip and when he would resign from the Shadow Cabinet, Mr Rodgers replied: "That remains to be seen and we shall announce it as we move along, but at this stage, and this was the real purpose of our declaration yesterday, and I think the purpose of the 11 of us this morning making clear where we stand, we are raising opinion and this is very important indeed."

Mr Rodgers said it was probable that there could be a new party by the summer.

Resignation call: The Labour Party in Wrexham last night passed a vote of no confidence in Mr MP, Mr Tom Ellis, and called on him to resign from the party (a correspondent writes from Wrexham).

Warning to Liberals and photographs, page 2



One of several bridges washed away by floods near Laingsburg in Cape Province yesterday.

120 missing as floods swamp S African town

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Jan 26

Up to 120 people may have died in the small town of Laingsburg in the western Cape after one of the worst floods in South Africa for almost 50 years.

As rescuers fought their way through mud and debris today, the local police commissioner announced that nine bodies had been discovered and 109 other people were known to be missing, believed dead.

In Parliament this afternoon Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, announced that the Government had set in motion emergency measures to aid survivors in Laingsburg and other people in the area whose homes and crops have been severely damaged by storms.

He said that emergency medical supplies, food, tents and bedding were being flown to Laingsburg and that troops and

special police units had been sent to the area.

Laingsburg is a small, pretty, sleepy, mining town on the banks of the Buffels river which flows through the barren Karoo region down to the Cape.

However, 12 inches of rain during the past 24 hours transformed a normally docile river into a torrent. One survivor said that a "massive wall of

water" thundered down through the centre of the town, knocking down houses and sweeping away cars as it went.

Today, the centre of the town was still under three to four feet of water. Between 150 and 200 houses were reported to have been destroyed including an old people's home. Fourteen of the home's residents were found seeking refuge on the local rugby pitch this morning but the rest are still missing.

Colonel Herman Morlok, the divisional commissioner of police for the south-western districts, said that Laingsburg looked like a battlefield. Cars were piled on each other, several people trapped on roofs had watched helplessly as others fell off and drowned, he said.

Twelve Air Force helicopters were being used in the rescue operation. They were carrying supplies and lifting out people trapped in their

homes or stranded in vehicles.

Many other areas of the south-western Cape were also affected by gales and floods which destroyed millions of pounds worth of fruit and crops. Particularly badly hit were wine farmers around the Hex river valley whose vines were flattened by the rains. Innumerable cattle and sheep have drowned in the floods.

Winds of up to 60 mph swept across Table Bay outside Cape Town yesterday and early today, causing disruption to shipping in and out of the harbour. Most of the main rail system passing through the Karoo has been washed away along a 150-mile stretch, cutting Cape Town off from the rest of the country.

Along the "Garden route" between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth strong winds felled telegraph poles, power cables and trees and sent landslides of mud into dozens of homes.

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Ten injured in Ulster bomb blasts

From Craig Seaton
Belfast

Bombs exploded in six centres in Northern Ireland last night in a coordinated IRA operation that slightly injured 10 people, including three men of the Ulster Defence Regiment. The damage to property was severe.

The bombs were in Portadown, Co Armagh, where a car bomb destroyed or damaged more than 30 shops and offices.

Three others exploded at about the same time, just before 6.30 pm, in three other towns.

Less than two hours later a bomb exploded in Londonderry and two exploded by the Belfast-Dublin railway line on the border in south Armagh. The line was closed.

Murder inquiry urged, page 4

Cabinet discusses imposing special terms on the sale of Times Newspapers

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Cabinet Ministers are discussing the possibility of the Government imposing special conditions on the sale of Times Newspapers to Mr Rupert Murdoch without referring his purchase to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. That was learnt last night after a meeting of a dozen ministers with Mrs Margaret Thatcher in the chair.

Mr Murdoch's bid was intensively discussed without, apparently, a decision being reached.

It was said in Whitehall that the decision was now for Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade. It was not known when Mr Biffen might announce his decision, although he will come under pressure to do so when he speaks in today's emergency Commons debate.

The Government was evidently taken by surprise by the Speaker's assertion in an emergency debate, and not pleased. Last night there was unusual restraint in authoritative quarters in mentioning the details. But, clearly, collective Cabinet committee advice was given to Mr Biffen.

The Government, wary of a political outcry if the Monopolies Commission is seen to be bypassed, seems to be searching for middle ground. The idea of imposing Government conditions to require that the editorial independence of the Times be maintained in the form of a quid pro quo for Mr Biffen's consent to Mr Murdoch's purchase, is being canvassed as one way to cut straight to the likely end result of a monopolies commission report.

The Government's keen concern over the legal thickets that could entrap the Secretary of State if he avails himself of one of the exceptions in the Fair Trade Act, 1973, as he must if he is not to refer the issue to the commission, was confirmed by the presence at last night's meeting of Sir Ian Percival, the Solicitor-General.

Several ministers favour a reference to the commission so that the issues can be investigated in the public interest. But other ministers, apparently including the Prime Minister, believe that the papers could be jeopardised by any delay in concluding negotiations beyond the three-week deadline that the owner, Thomson British Holdings (TBH), and Mr Murdoch, have set. Mr Murdoch has objected to a reference to the commission.

Continued on page 2, col 6

Rail union backs voting change

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The right-wing revolt against Labour's union-dominated party leadership electoral college gained momentum yesterday when leaders of the railwaymen and engineering workers backed steps to reopen the constitutional issue.

There are moves under way to table a constitutional amendment to the annual party conference in October that would shift the MPs' share of votes in the electoral college from 30 per cent to 50 per cent. It is a strategy that has the tacit support of the party leader, Mr Michael Foot.

As the implications of the Wembley conference voting sank in yesterday, some moderate union leaders were openly admitting their misgivings about taking "too much" power in the process of choosing the Labour leader. Under the formula adopted on Saturday, the unions will have 40 per cent of the votes, with the remainder divided equally between MPs and constituency parties.

Mr Sidney Weizhall, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, said he was sure that unions would be looking at ways of reversing the Wembley decision. "For the same reason that the party's national executive never accepted a decision that they don't like, I would say other people have the same right to change this to what they think it ought to be."

Mr David Barnett, chairman of Trade Unions for Labour Victory, who first hinted that the constitutional issue could be reopened, would not elaborate further on his prediction that a union would take up Mr Foot's invitation to

restore the moderate formula for an electoral college.

Other union leaders were less reticent. Mr Terence Duffy, President of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said on arriving for a meeting of the TUC's "inner cabinet" that he did not consider the leadership issue closed. He hoped those threatening to break away would stay and continue the fight.

While Mr Moynv Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, conceded that those unhappy with the Wembley formula could raise it again, he said: "You cannot keep going all the time until you get the result you want. We could have so many conferences you would be getting dizzy after a time." The TGUW's 1,250,000 block vote was cast for the winning formula.

Letters, page 13

BL given £990m state aid over the next two years without conditions

By Edward Townsend

BL has been rescued once again by the Government and is to receive £990m additional state funding over the next two years. The new injection will bring the total amount of public money given to the company since 1975 to £2,065m.

The additional money has been granted without conditions and the Government is relying upon "regular monitoring" by the BL board of its new corporate plan and on a further promise by Sir Michael Edwards, the chairman, that the company's operations will be reviewed quickly if there is "a substantial deviation in performance."

BL is believed to have made a loss approaching £400m last year and in the new corporate plan, now backed by the Government, it envisages diminished losses this year and in 1982 and a return to profitability in 1983.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, announcing state support for the plan in the Commons yesterday, said the Government would provide £620m in new equity in 1981-82 and £370m in the following year. The company's four-year plan calls for a further injection of £150m in 1984 and 1985.

Sir Keith announced that, as soon as the industry became law, the shareholding in BL would be transferred to the Government from the National Enterprise Board, a move that has been expected since the withdrawal of Rolls-Royce from the NEE's portfolio more than a year ago.

His announcement had a mixed reaction in the Commons, with some Conservative backbenchers expressing disquiet. Mr George Gardner, MP for Reigate, said there was disappointment that firm undertakings had not been given from the trade unions, while Mr John Stokes, MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge, said he hoped "these vast

payments will be the last, or are we going year by year to fill the bath with the plug out?"

Sir Michael, who has acceded to a government request to resign, said at least until the end of 1982, said later: "We welcome the Government's decision which clearly recognizes the determination of BL and its workforce to make a success of the business."

He said that last year the company was free of disputes for 98.6 per cent of working hours, a 76 per cent reduction in man hours lost compared with 1979, resulting in the company's best industrial relations record. "We believe this has made a significant contribution to the Government's continuing support."

At a press conference, Sir Keith said that discussions in his department and the Cabinet had looked for the "middle ground" between acceptance and rejection of the BL request, but there was none.

Rejection would have cost more and caused the loss of 130,000 jobs in BL and other companies, so either way "the taxpayer was going to be clubbed."

The taxpayer had got locked into BL so that the only way to escape was to spend money. "We did not inherit many of these and we certainly are not supporting any more," he added.

Sir Keith and his ministerial colleagues have been impressed by the BL board's determination to sell the company's non-aerospace subsidiaries, which are likely to include the Alvis military vehicle and Coventry Climax forklift truck operations, and to enter more collaboration deals with other manufacturers as a means of attracting private capital.

Parliamentary report, page 8
Leading article, page 13
Essential help, page 17

Education report fails to guide

Local authorities hoping for guidance on providing education for 16 to 19-year-olds will get little from the report of the Macfarlane committee. It recommends that as no single pattern is generally preferable each authority should be left to decide what provision to make in the light of its circumstances. One criticism is that it does nothing to help to provide a badly needed national policy of education and training related to industry, commerce, employment and unemployment.

Bonn crisis erupts

A rebellion over defence policy by 24 Social Democrat deputies in Bonn has raised fresh problems for Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor, struggling to keep his coalition together. The deputies want defence spending to be cut by £210m and the money used for development aid.

Mr Walesa's mission

Mr Lech Walesa made an urgent visit to southern Poland today to avert a clash between peasant farmers demanding recognition for their free trade union and the authorities. Solidarity has called for action by other workers to support them.

Seamen's separate deal

Canadian Pacific, one of the employers involved in the seamen's dispute, has broken ranks and reached a separate deal with the National Union of Seamen. Neither side would give figures but the union hailed the settlement as a breakthrough.



Manager departs: Crystal Palace Football Club have parted company with Malcolm Allison, their manager (above), for the second time only two days after Mr Ron Noades, the Wimbledon chairman, had bought the shares of his Palace counterpart, Mr Raymond Bloye. Dario Gradi, the Wimbledon manager, was named as successor to Mr Allison, who will receive compensation equivalent to his salary until the end of the season.

New Fraser clash

Sir Hugh Fraser, chairman of the House of Fraser stores group, has said that a meeting of the group's directors called for tomorrow could involve moves to oust him from the board. Also expected to be on the agenda is the future role of S. G. Warburg, the group's merchant bank, and Cazenove, its stockbroker.

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 22, 24; Appointments, 21, 22; Sale Room and antiques, 22

£271m for Britain from EEC

From Michael Horsby
Bussels, Jan 26

Britain will receive £271m over the next few days from the EEC in partial reimbursement of its contribution to the Community budget last year, the European Commission announced today.

Added to the first repayment of £98m announced at the end of December this means that Britain will have received 53 per cent of the total refund of £502m on its 1980 budget contribution promised under the agreement reached by EEC foreign ministers last May.

The Government expects another substantial part of the refund to be paid in March, leaving only about 20 per cent outstanding, which will be released later in the year.

This timetable is in line with the Government's desire that the bulk of each annual refund should be paid by the end of its own financial year, which runs from April to April.

Of the total refund for 1980, £281m will be a straight rebate, and the remaining £422m will consist of EEC-financed expenditure on public investment projects in Britain, particularly in less developed regions. The EEC money will meet between 20 and 30 per cent of the cost of the projects concerned.

The money made available so far under the second heading is earmarked for development programmes in Wales and the north west of England.

The refund of Britain's 1981 budget contribution will amount at current exchange rates to £770m. Arrangements thereafter have yet to be decided. The Government contends that the refunds enable public expenditure programmes to be sustained at higher levels than could otherwise have been afforded. Critics of the Government, however, say that the money is being used simply to reduce the burden on the national exchequer and not to increase spending on underdeveloped regions.

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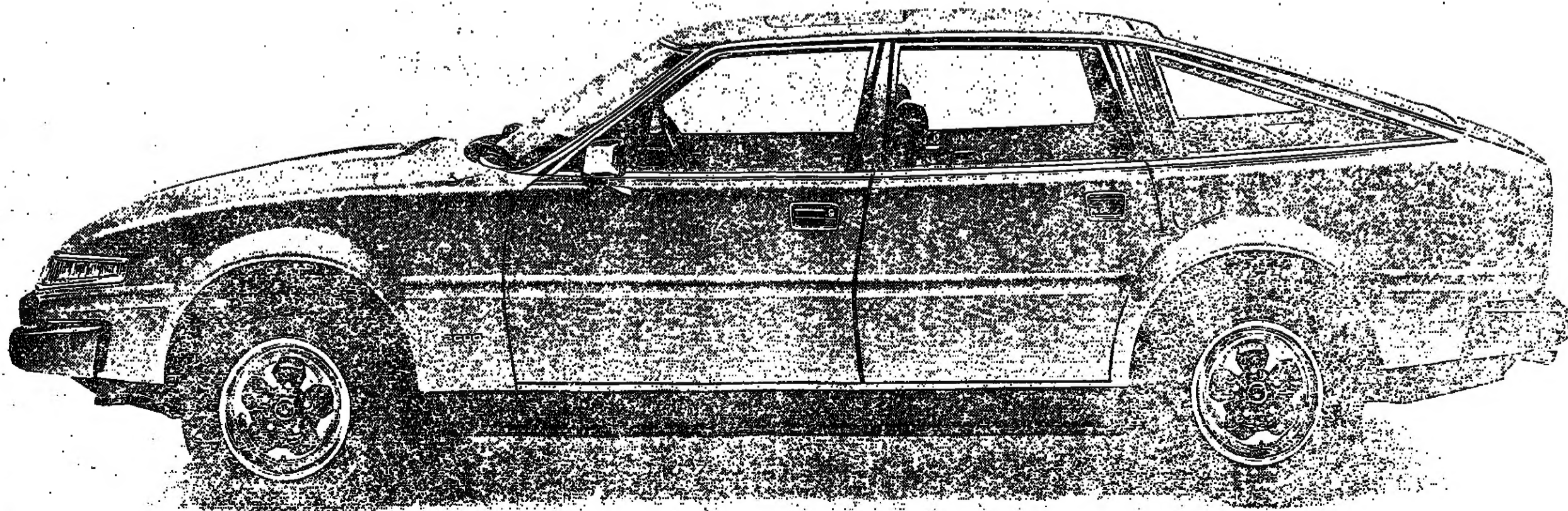
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HOME NEWS

Little guidance for authorities in report on providing education for 16-to-19 age group

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

No single pattern of educational provision for 16 to 19-year-olds is generally preferable, the Macfarlane committee says in its report published yesterday. It recommends that every local authority be left to decide what provision to make in the light of its own circumstances.

The various options are rehearsed: school sixth forms; "consortia" arrangements between schools; 11-16 schools feeding into a single 11-18 school; separate sixth-form colleges, tertiary colleges; and further education colleges.

The weaknesses and strengths of each option are explored, but none is recommended as the first step of approval.

Local authorities hoping for guidance will get very little from this report, which is a compromise between those wanting to retain school sixth forms and those favouring a tertiary or sixth-form college solution.

The committee, chaired by Mr Neil Macfarlane, Under-Secretary of State for Education and Science, was set up jointly by the Government and the local authority associations in 1979 to review educational provision for 16 to 19-year-olds in England and Wales.

The Association of Metro-

politan Authorities, which was represented on the committee, immediately condemned the report for having failed to do anything to help to provide a badly needed national policy of education and training related to industry, commerce, employment and unemployment.

"The blinkered approach of the Macfarlane group prevented their looking at the context of education. That is more than a pity; it is a scandal," Mrs Nicole Harrison, chairman of the AMA's education committee, said.

Mr Neil Kinnock, MP, Labour's education spokesman, said that the report "consists mainly of penitential platitudes that do nothing to help youngsters, to assist educators or to resolve the multiplying problems in educational, economic and technological needs."

The National Association of Head Teachers described it as the blandest document that has ever been produced by the Department of Education and Science.

Both the National Union of Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers appeared fairly relieved that the committee had refrained from coming out in favour of one particular solution. They both have a vested interest in the continuation of school sixth forms, and the early drafts of

the report had shown a bias in favour of the tertiary or sixth-form college "solution".

The only vestige of that original bias comes in a statement at the end of the report: "Some would say that educational merit, demography and financial constraints point inescapably to the adoption of a break at 16."

"We think that there are indeed powerful arguments in favour of educating 16 to 19-year-olds in fairly large groups, and are clear that a scatter of small six forms offering an inadequate range of options at high cost must wherever possible be avoided."

"In some areas sixth-form or tertiary colleges may be the best solution both educationally and financially."

The report comments on the big differences in financial support for 16 to 19-year-olds, ranging from full-time students on a Youth Opportunities Programme allowance of £23.50 a week to part-time students receiving £13.10 a week (supplementary benefit at £17.05 if 18 or over), while other full-time students usually receive nothing.

Education for 16 to 19-year-olds (Publications in draft, Centre, Department of Education and Science, Honeywell Lane, Canons Park, Stommes, Middlesex, HA7 1AZ; fresh).

Leading article, page 13

Relatives' rights confirmed

By a Staff Reporter

A legal victory which confirms the rights of the relatives of mental patients to question treatment and detention in psychiatric hospitals was announced yesterday by MIND, the mental health charity.

The case was heard in chambers by the Sheffield County Court and the details came to light only yesterday. It concerns the father of a patient who refused to give his consent to his son's being committed to hospital on an indefinite detention order.

Mr James Gilling, aged 28, the son, was admitted to Whiteley Wood Clinic, Sheffield, on a one-month order for observation. The doctors said he was unmanageable and gave him two doses of electro-convulsive therapy. He refused to have any more.

Because he was difficult and the medical staff wanted to transfer him, it was necessary to apply for an order under Section 26 of the Mental Health Act. They also wanted to treat him, which required his consent.

He was diagnosed as schizophrenic by his doctor and that was confirmed by a Broadmoor psychiatrist, who was willing to arrange for his transfer to Broadmoor. However, his father, as the nearest relative, had to give his consent to the Section 26 order.

Mr Frank Gilling refused. He was taken to court by the Sheffield social services department, which said that he was unreasonably refused to sign the order.

Mr Gilling was found last week not to have acted unreasonably in refusing to sign his son's detention order. Two independent psychiatrists said the son was now being peaceful and cooperative and had agreed to stay in hospital.

Mr Larry Gostin, deputy director of MIND, said the decision was a great advance and showed that the "nearest relative" safeguard in the Mental Health Act was not a paper tiger.

Time limit for awaiting trial 'often broken'

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

The six-month limit during which Parliament has said people should be brought to trial is being broken repeatedly, the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders said yesterday. It was giving evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs.

In 1979 only 54 per cent of people awaiting trial in custody were dealt with within eight weeks of commitment. That was the limit set by the Courts Act, 1971, which directed that the trial should be held by then unless the Crown Court ordered differently. But there were no sanctions if the limit was exceeded.

A sample taken last year showed that 300 prisoners had been awaiting trial for more than six months and 700 for more than three months and up to six months.

"Particular hardship is caused to defendants who are remanded in custody in overcrowded conditions while awaiting trial, over 40 per cent of whom are later acquitted or given a non-custodial sentence."

To help to reduce waiting times, 50 judges from outside the South-east had agreed to sit in London for a time. More than 160 courts were being built.

The association said that in Scotland a person's trial had to be finished within 110 days of the commitment, unless release from custody was granted.

One way to reduce the prison population would be to have a waiting list. Under such a scheme offenders likely to be dangerous to the public would be taken in immediately. But people such as fine defaulters or maintenance defaulters would wait their turn. The sort of system was operating in Holland.

Jobless benefit at lowest value for nine years

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Sickness and unemployment benefits reached their lowest value in real terms since September, 1971, when they were increased last November. That is shown in the 1980 edition of Social Security Statistics, published by the Department of Health and Social Security.

The fall in constant price terms was slightly less than the Government intended when short-term benefits were increased last November by 5 per cent less than the expected inflation rate. Figures in the new volume assume an inflation rate of 16.1 per cent between the November, 1979, and November, 1980, increases, 1 per cent more than the actual rate.

The corrected figures, to be given in a future issue, show that sickness and unemployment benefits for a single person were worth £19.65 a

week at April, 1980, prices, compared with more than £20 for most of the previous 10 years. In September, 1971, the benefits were worth £19.30 for a single person.

The value of the benefits for a man claiming for himself and a dependent wife fell to £31.78 a week at constant prices, compared with £32 to £33 for the previous decade. In September, 1971, the constant price value was £31.20.

The volume also shows that the value of the benefits has fallen in relation both to average earnings and to male manual workers' earnings. But the change relative to earnings does not extend as far back as that in real terms, and the table can give the November, 1980, figure.

At the November, 1979, increase, the benefits fell back to the level in 1975 compared with earnings. Social Security Statistics 1980 (Stationery Office, £13).

MP demands inquiry into school beatings allegation

By Michael Horsnell

Teachers at a secondary school in Liverpool are administering 1,800 beatings a year to pupils, according to the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment (Stopp).

Mr Andrew Bennett, Labour MP for Stockport, North, has called for a government inquiry into the punishment record at Litherland High School, Sefton.

Mr Bennett, who has tabled questions to Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said: "It seems that if the information supplied to Stopp is correct it is an appalling situation which must be looked into."

Details of corporal punishments at the school were photocopied by Mr Alan Corkish, aged 36, an English teacher, who informed the headmaster of what he had done.

Mr Corkish, who still teaches at the school, has been told by Mr Keith Robinson, chief education officer of Sefton, to attend a governors' meeting next month. His conduct could lead to disciplinary action, Mr Robinson said.

The report said that the school recorded more beatings than any other whose statistics have been published.

In two weeks last year, Stopp says, there were 89 instances of corporal punishment among 400 boys aged between 12 and 15. The punishment, administered by a slipper, were for offences which included internal truancy and bullying and vandalism, but most were for minor misdemeanours.

Both Mr Eric Colley, the headmaster, and the local education authority refused to comment yesterday.

Mr Corkish said: "When I realised that the corporal punishment record of the school was three times as bad as the national average, I thought it was time I should do something about it. I could not get anything meaningful discussion going between the staff, headmaster and governors, despite several tries. Then I contacted Stopp and found how bad the figures were compared with other schools."

Battlefields to be restored in £2m trust appeal

From Our Correspondent Glasgow

The National Trust for Scotland launched a golden jubilee appeal for £2m yesterday for the continuance and expansion of its work to preserve Scotland's heritage.

Lord Bute, the chairman of the trust, said in Glasgow that £500,000 had been given, promised or lent on favourable terms.

It is understood that part of the income will be used to help to restore two Scottish battlefields, Bannockburn, where Robert the Bruce is honoured for his victory to secure Scottish independence in 1314, and Culloden, where the battle to decide the fate of the House of Stuart was fought in 1746.

The Clydesdale Bank, which is said to be keenly interested in the Bannockburn project, is promised "a very considerable sum" towards the development and the Scottish Tourist Board is believed to be considering committing more than £100,000.

Help the families of young offenders, society urges

The Church of England Children's Society yesterday urged the Government to eradicate the weakness in methods of dealing with juvenile delinquency by paying more attention to offenders' families.

Of the 1980 White Paper, Young Offenders, the society says that the weakness of the proposals for orders for removal from home for youngsters lies in their neglect of the family, whose circumstances often lead to delinquency.

Children's difficulties cannot be considered in isolation, Mr Donald Bowie, the society's director, says. "Is it surprising that recidivism is so high when children are placed in borstals, and then returned to exactly the environment in which the original offences were committed?"

The society says: "Help and guidance and support for families is vital in reducing delinquency." It welcomes the Government's intention of making custodial sentences of a fixed length for

Whitehall brief: Defence community would fight to stop Mr Foot axing nuclear weapons

Memory of 1940 may be behind devotion to the deterrent

By Peter Hennessy

After a weekend of witnessing the Labour Party reading its manifesto in public, it may seem perverse to focus on what a Foot Administration might do if it takes office after the next election.

But as the Ministry of Defence continues to explain in considerable detail to the Commons Select Committee on Defence the consequences of the Government's decision to build a third-generation nuclear deterrent around the Trident missile, it is intriguing to speculate on what Whitehall will do if in the mid-1980s, it finds itself answering to the first British prime minister with a personal commitment to end the country's adherence to such weapons.

The ministry has a firm rule that no contingency planning will be undertaken on how to handle a disaster in No 10, but if the order came to cancel Trident and bring the Polaris submarines back to Faslane for the last time, it would, of course, be obeyed.

Mr Michael Foot and his Cabinet committee on defence and overseas policy in, say, the autumn of 1983, would have three choices before them: 1. To carry on with Trident, which, at that point, would be costing between £700m and £800m a year;

2. To cancel Trident but allow the Polaris submarine squadron to remain on patrol until the end of its operational life in the mid-1990s;

3. To cancel Trident, call home Polaris boats, strip them of their missiles and convert them to hunter-killer submarines.

Should a Foot Cabinet opt for the second or third courses, its ministers would have a fight on their hands, for all the certainty that they would have in their way in the end. For in the defence community there is a devotion to the idea of a British deterrent that goes deeper than mere reason would allow.

It peeps through the lines in the dry language of White Papers and statements to Parliament and surfaces in private conversations. For example, when asked how the Ministry of Defence would respond to a Secretary of State who arrived with the intention of dismantling the deterrent, an experienced figure replied: "Every gun in the place would be turned on him."

After a visit a few years ago to the leaky hut on a Cotswold hillside above Bath where Britain's missile-carrying submarines are designed (the scientists move blueprints to the dry corners when it rains, or they did in 1977), I remarked to a veteran of the

Chronology of the strike force

1945 Air Ministry commissions work on jet aircraft to carry "special bomb".

1947 Atomic Energy Commission authorises construction of British atomic bomb.

1952 Atom bomb tested successfully at Monte Belia.

1956 V-bomber force becomes capable of an atomic strike against the Soviet Union.

1957 Hydrogen bomb tested successfully at Bikini Atoll.

1962 Macmillan and Kennedy agree on a successor to the V force based on the United States Polaris missile.

1969 Polaris submarine squad-

ron replaces V force as strategic nuclear deterrent.

1976 Callaghan ministerial group authorises two Whitehall working parties to consider Polaris replacement.

1979 Thatcher Cabinet committee opts for Trident, and Carter Administration agrees to extend Polaris sales agreement to cover it.

1980 Government announces Trident to replace Polaris in early 1980s at cost of £4,500m to £5,000m.

1981 Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Defence reaffirm commitment to Trident.

against a return of British summer "boffins" applying breaking the Luft one can read Aldermaston and its experts beneath the Chil brave young me substitute youthfulness in submarines to the North Atlantic stands between a of allies and the the Channel port Whitehall would to using th sovereignty" arg it looked like los once and far at of claims, a danger that the to defensive med that a radical res law is needed, said in a lectur the journal of th of Medicine.

Medical negl have increased t cade. "Awardi ing heights whi serious threat t of health author

Citing the re almost £250,000 he says: "neft private funds c support the bu awards"

The "huge" sun at partly becau form (Personal provided that th health service to be excluded.

That section pealed, Lord Sca an alternative st to lump sum ave to assume norm ancy; and consi be given to a i underwritten by Such a schem lieve those w accidents, and ti fession, of the or ing and almost i ful process of lit tor's alleged would put upon expayers, the for support i conceive it to and social duty



Samantha Brown, aged five, of South Glamorgan, with her winning design for the Christmas second class stamp in the "Blue Peter" television contest.

MPs defend disciplined scientist

By Frances Gibb

More than fifty MPs from all parties yesterday backed a call to the Prime Minister to intervene in the case of Mr Trevor Brown, a civil servant, who has been severely reprimanded by the Ministry of Defence for speaking on a television programme without permission.

Mr Brown, a senior scientist at the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, Aldermaston, was disciplined last November for criticising safety standards at the establishment on a Newsnight programme last March called "Is Aldermaston Safe?"

In a letter yesterday to the

Prime Minister, Mr David Alton, Liberal MP for Liverpool, Edge Hill, one of 51 MPs who have signed an early day motion calling for the reprimand to be withdrawn, says an independent inquiry should be set up into the case.

"I thought that the Conservative Party and your Government stood for a more effective Civil Service," Mr Alton writes. "Yet you are letting a man be penalised for trying to protect the public interest."

The letter points out that as Mr Brown was speaking as a local county councillor representing his constituents' interests, the case calls for

clarification of the role of civil servants involved in local politics, as urged by the Armistice committee.

Mr Alton's letter is his second to Mrs Margaret Thatcher. In her reply of November 17 to his first letter she said that where there is a conflict between a civil servant's duties and his political life she was "in no doubt that a civil servant's first duty is to the state as his employer."

Mr Brown has the right of appeal to the Ministry of Defence but the MPs regard this as unsatisfactory and call for their motion for an independent adjudication procedure.

Man held boy down in pool, jury told

A man who forced his stepson, aged two and a half, to stay in a swimming pool for 90 minutes had ill-treated the child, a jury was told at Leeds Crown Court yesterday.

The child died later the same day, but Mr Gavin Barr-Young, for the prosecution, said: "There is no suggestion by the prosecution that this man has done anything approaching killing the child or anything like that. What the prosecution say is that he ill-treated this child."

Steven James Greenwood, aged 28, of Town Street, Staningley, Leeds, pleaded not guilty to wilfully ill-treating or exposing his stepson Terence in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury.

Counsel said: "Some pool attendants became concerned at Greenwood's conduct. The child appeared to be distressed and was crying, and Greenwood was repeatedly submerging the child, holding the child's head under water."

At the end of the 90 minutes the child was completely exhausted, he added. He was taken to the grandmother's home, where he became unconscious. The boy died later that day.

The trial continues today.

Missing boat was up in No.

From a Staff Report Edinburgh

The 13ft rowing boat, the E was empty and clues showed it was from Mr Kerr, age making his secc cross the Atlant seen on August merchant ship i of it.

The empty b seen on Januar miles off the Da Royal Navy said it was ask that officially proto

Public inquiry urged on Ulster murders

From Craig Seton Belfast

Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who was snubbed at the funeral on Sunday of Sir Norman Stronge and his son, the IRA victims, yesterday came under more pressure from Unionists over border security.

Mr William Bleakes, secretary of the Official Unionists' District Councils Association, called for a public inquiry into the murder last Wednesday of Sir Norman and his son, Mr James Stronge, at Tynan Abbey, co Armagh, close to the border with the republic. He said: "We expect the Government to protect the citizens of this province."

Last night an Official Unionist councillor was trying to put a motion before Larne council urging that it should boycott official visits to its district by Mr Atkins.

Death threat: The Official Unionist candidate in a Belfast City Council by-election tomorrow has withdrawn from the contest after receiving a live bullet and a death threat letter at his home.

Mr David Smylie, aged 57, a shipyard worker, found the bullet and letter warning him to "pull out" in an envelope pushed through his letterbox. He said he would get out of politics altogether.

Firemen injured: Two firemen were slightly injured near Belfast city centre yesterday after three armed men had planted bombs in a wholesale store.

After the building had been evacuated the first bomb exploded. Firemen were caught by the second blast. An army bomb disposal team defused the third device.

Redundant clothing w go back as a coopera

By David Nicholson-Lord

Twenty-five workers at an Essex Anglian clothing factory were back at their machines yesterday, three days after losing their jobs and collecting redundancy payments of up to £1,000 each.

The 25, who were among 70 workers made redundant last Friday at the Maxwell Kiddie Clothes factory at Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, have formed a cooperative of "outdoor workers" on contract to manufacturers.

Thanks to their former employer, they have secured their first order as well as the use of the company's premises and machinery, on loan to them at a peppercorn rent until the lease expires at the end of March.

As pop music from a radio blared out over the clatter of sewing machines, Mr John White, one of the group's leaders, said: "It was either this or going on the dole. It was a case of getting off our backsides and doing something about it."

Mr White, who formerly

earned about £15 cutter, added: taking any show work we are doi going to put it a hope that we business from i in the next few He is secretar committee set up pany announced that it was planning to form pany.

They approach Maxwell, manag the company, wh on finances and with an order dren's jackets, Provisionally Fashions, the gr negotiations for planning to form pany.

Mr White: orders were diff this time of yeai the atmosphere He added: "Ob be hard for us i we can manag nine months we a chance of succ

Mackerel plea by fishermen

Cornish fishermen's leaders yesterday criticized a Whitehall decision to allow fishing for immature mackerel to continue. They say that stocks are being overfished and want the season to finish early this year.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries said yesterday: "The South-west mackerel fishery is not being closed in the immediate future because our latest scientific evidence shows that this is not necessary."

Scots Act aims to stop weapon-carrying

From Ronald Faux Edinburgh

No acceptable behaviour would be restricted by the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act, which comes into force on February 1, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Advocate, said at a press conference in Edinburgh yesterday. The Act gives greater powers to the police to search suspects and to control alcohol at sporting events.

It was hoped that the Act would provide a better and

Scots Act aims to stop weapon-carrying

more secure society for everyone, Lord Mackay said. The new power for the police to search for offensive weapons was aimed at breaking the weapon-carrying habit among some young people.

Provisional figures showed that 32 of 80 victims of homicide in 1979 were killed by sharp instruments.

Lord Mackay said: "We hope that the judicious exercise of this new power by the police will help to stamp out the weapon-carrying habit and

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HOME NEWS

European commission rejects Liberal view of British poll system

By Lucy Hodges

The case brought by the Liberal Party alleging that the British electoral system contravenes the European Convention on Human Rights has been rejected, it was disclosed yesterday.

The European Commission of Human Rights decided at its last session that the case should be declared "inadmissible", that is, that there was no prima facie case. It has not yet given its reasons but it is well known that the commission did not view the case with favour.

The Liberals were arguing that the first-past-the-post system for British elections causes discrimination against a political minority. The commission is believed to have viewed that as a highly political case of the kind which should be decided by the country itself and not by an outside body.

None of the cases that have gone to the commission to date have been about voting rights but the commission has ruled that the first hurdle in the commission's lengthy procedure.

At its last session the commission decided to pursue a complaint brought by Mr Denis

Lemon, the editor of *Gay News*, who is claiming that his conviction for blasphemous libel in 1979 contravened the European convention. It has asked the United Kingdom Government for its views on whether it should hear the case.

It also decided to pursue seven complaints brought by women who are prevented by the new immigration rules from bringing their husbands or fiancés into Britain to live with them.

The commission decided not to refer two cases to the European Court of Human Rights. These cases concern deportation proceedings for immigrants, involving detention (the *Caprio* case) and the question whether prisoners serving a life sentence can marry.

In the case of *Francis Caprio*, an Italian immigrant who was arrested, imprisoned and told he would be deported because his presence was not considered conducive to the public good, it is understood that the commission found no violation of the convention. The deportation order was rescinded by the Home Secretary of the time.

Don would welcome an inquiry on leak charge

By John Withrow

A Cambridge don branded as a "traditionalist" in a dispute within the English faculty yesterday that he would welcome a university investigation into allegations that he and others had leaked accounts of confidential meetings.

Dr John Harvey, of Emmanuel College, was responding to reports that his opponents within the faculty, at present divided by its most bitter dispute for 50 years, intended to ask for an investigation by the university's ancient court, the Septem Viri.

Consisting of seven distinguished dons, the Septem Viri can investigate allegations that members have broken accepted confidentiality about faculty board meetings and if necessary can take disciplinary action.

The dispute centres on the

refusal of the faculty's appointment committee to give a permanent position to Colin McCabe, an assistant lecturer in the department for five years, after he had twice been recommended.

Supporters of Dr McCabe see the refusal to promote him as a move by the more traditional dons to prevent the spread of an approach to English literature known as structuralism.

Dr Harvey has denied those allegations and claimed that the feeling among the dons was that Dr McCabe was denied a permanent post because of his teaching abilities.

Dr Stephen Heath, a supporter of Dr McCabe, who has called for a debate on the subject in the Senate, yesterday denied a newspaper report that he had instructed a lawyer to prepare a libel action against Dr Harvey.

Housing body decision day

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The future of the Family Housing Association, whose affairs have been in effect frozen by the Government because of a £500,000 deficit, is expected to be decided today.

The supervision panel and board of the Housing Corporation discussed the association's affairs yesterday amid fears that recommendations from a special manager appointed by the corporation would be ignored.

The Association's difficulties arise from a moratorium imposed on its building programme by the Department of the Environment and the corporation in 1978 which remained in force for nine months.

Last September a new grant of £350,000 was agreed to prevent the association from going into liquidation, and Mr Ian Watts was appointed by the corporation as special manager to investigate its affairs.

Mr Watts is believed to have recommended that the Association should be allowed to retain a smaller housing development programme, producing about 50 units a year.

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Food chemical hazard unresolved

By Hugh Clayton

Agriculture Correspondent

Government scientists did not know if a chemical flavouring found to cause illness in rats was still being used in food processing, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said yesterday.

The substance, versalide, which was stated by the ministry last year to have been associated with nervous disorders in rats which lead to weakness and lack of coordination in the limbs.

The ministry was then supplying information for an inquiry about flavourings by a select committee of the Lords. It had asked for information after hearing from Dr E. Fisher, a principal scientific officer on the food standards committee of the ministry, that versalide was a chemical about which "there have been toxicological doubts expressed".

The ministry said that government scientists had been told in 1976 that versalide was used in some processed desserts, sugar confectionery and baked goods. The substance was examined then by the toxicity subcommittee of the Government's committee on medical aspects of chemicals in food.

The subcommittee said that further research was necessary.

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The subcommittee said that further research was necessary.

Daunting challenge faces new Merseyside organization Bringing dead dockland to life

Mr Basil Bean, chief executive of the Merseyside Development Corporation, looked out of his office window on to a stretch of disused dock buildings and an even larger stretch of mud and asked: "What do you suggest we can do to bring life back to the river?"

Mr Bean, aged 48, lately general manager of the Northampton Development Corporation and with a long background of local government administration, obviously has his own ideas.

His organization, due to become "legal" in March, has the daunting challenge of restoring prosperity (regeneration is the official word) to the almost moribund dockland areas between the Dingle and Bootle on the east side of the river and around Wallasey and Birkenhead on the west bank.

The west bank used to be called the Cheshire or the Wirral side, before some people occasionally referred to it as bureaucrats altered the labels in those parts.

The Merseyside Development Corporation (there is only one other of its kind, dealing with an area known vaguely to northerners as London Dockland) should have been legalized by now, but a hybrid Bill still hangs in the air, with various parliamentary stages.

Mr Bean must carry on in his temporary offices with a small staff until the Bill is passed, when he will be allowed to recruit between 50 to 60 people, including experts in their fields, with the usual

Regional report John Chartres Liverpool

secretarial and administrative support.

The creation of the development corporation caused a little sucking of teeth and clicking of tongues among the established local authorities on Merseyside which saw it as being superimposed on their existing powers.

Mr Bean believes much of that resentment has melted, particularly since Sir Kenneth Thompson, chairman of Merseyside County Council, accepted the shadow post of vice-chairman of the corporation, with Mr Leslie Young, chairman of J. Bibby and Sons, taking on the chairmanship.

The tasks facing the corporation are formidable. The South Dock area on the Liverpool side of the river has become more derelict and depressing since the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company stopped commercial operations 15 years ago.

The complex of docks, shipyards, warehouses, and non-industrial uses on the Wirral side between Birkenhead and Wallasey poses big difficulties in terms of roadworks, bridges and access since there always seems to be a bit of the River Mersey in the way of every lorry or car driver wanting to move around there and do business.

In brief

Blue asbestos fine on council

Buckinghamshire County Council was fined £800 yesterday at High Wycombe Magistrates' Court for failing to take precautions in handling blue asbestos, which is liable to cause cancer.

The asbestos had been used to insulate pipework in the kiln boiler room at Buckinghamshire College of Further Education, High Wycombe, it was stated.

Mr Raymond Johnson-Smith, a technician, had worked on the pipes without protective equipment to prevent inhalation, the prosecution said. The county council admitted a breach of the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Court reduces sentence

Graham George Sheehan, who was given a two-year jail sentence a year ago for his alleged part in a raid on the country home of Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, was cleared of burglary by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Mr Sheehan, a labourer, of Chinnor Road, Thame, Oxfordshire, had a conviction of having and a 21-month jail sentence substituted by Lord Justice Shaw, sitting with Mr Justice Bristow and Mr Justice Hodgson.

Noose girl dies

Claire Taylor, aged four, of Scawthorpe, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, who was found dangling unconscious in a ribbon "noose" after she slipped from a chair while making a garden swing, died in hospital yesterday.

£100,000 raid

Four masked and armed raiders escaped with more than £100,000 after threatening security guards outside a Co-operative store in Slade Green, Kent, yesterday.

Postmen for trial

Two postmen and four postal workers at Marylebone, accused of conspiring to steal mail, were sent from Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court yesterday on bail for trial at Knightsbridge Crown Court. They are further charged with stealing a postal packet.

Royal nursery pupil

Peter Phillips, aged three, Princess Anne's son, yesterday joined 24 village children for his first full week at nursery school at Minchinghampton Gloucestershire, near the royal estate at Gatcombe Park.

Footballer fined

Frank Worthington, aged 32, the Birmingham City footballer, was fined £75 by magistrates at Cannock, Staffordshire, yesterday, for speeding.

Radio job for Mrs Foot

Miss Jill Craigie, wife of Mr Michael Foot, the Opposition Leader, is to become a political commentator with Capital Radio in London.

Other home news page 8

WEST EUROPE

Revolt on defence strains Bonn coalition

From Patricia Clough Bonn, Jan 26

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, is facing fresh trouble from the heels of last week's political crisis in West Berlin with a rebellion by 24 deputies in his Social Democrat Party in Bonn over defence.

The new difficulties come on top of strains and rifts which have been increasing in the SPD-Free Democrat coalition since its election victory on October 5.

The 24 deputies have caused embarrassment to the Government by presenting a resolution to the SPD parliamentary party demanding that defence spending be cut by 1,000m marks (£210m) and that the money be used for development aid.

According to Herr Herbert Wehner, the SPD floor leader, the move is linked with efforts to obtain a withdrawal of Bonn's approval of the dual NATO resolution to station new medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe and to negotiate with the Soviet Union on reducing the number of such weapons.

Some SPD members maintain that the party's constant giving on the understanding that the United States would approve the SALT 2 treaty, which it has not.

The resolution strikes at the Government's whole defence policy and, since conservative American circles are highly sensitive to suggestions of

faithlessness in Bonn, would hardly improve the Government's image with the Reagan Administration.

The resolution also conflicts with the position of the FDP whose leader, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, has warned that such a move would be "extremely dangerous" for West Germany.

The resolution, being discussed today, looks unlikely to be carried but the trouble will almost certainly live on. It has shown that the number of SPD deputies prepared to oppose Herr Schmidt on defence has doubled since the elections.

Although his majority is also larger, if the 24 stick to their guns on such an issue in the Bundestag the Government would not win without help from the Opposition.

Meanwhile, the Social Democrats were preparing to fight hard to retain power in West Berlin in the fresh elections which were called after last week's crisis.

The importance of West Berlin to West German politics has been underlined by the fact that the Chancellor is supporting his most valued minister and most likely successor, Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, in his attempt to become Chief Burgomaster of the city.

If the Social Democrats should lose power which they have held in the city, with one brief interruption, since 1947 it would inevitably be seen as the beginning of the end of their rule in Bonn.

Herr Vogel, who was Justice



Herr Schmidt ponders over the latest crisis to affect his troubled coalition.

Minister, has the unenviable task of cleaning up a party discredited by scandals, and winning the elections against competition from an eminent and highly-respected liberal

Christian Democrat, Herr Richard von Weizsäcker.

But he has little time to show results before the elections, which appear likely to be held in the early summer, and

further evidence of SPD maladministration may well appear by then.

The acceptance of Herr Vogel by Berlin's House of Representatives on Friday has given Herr Schmidt a breathing space until the city's elections. But the malaise in the coalition, which came to the surface again in Berlin, continues.

Things have not gone well since the Free Democrats increased their share of the vote in the October elections and insisted on correspondingly greater influence in the coalition, while the Social Democrats resented giving way. Differences have arisen on a number of issues and in Berlin some Free Democrats were not averse to switching over to the Christian Democrats.

But although they have the power to bring about a change of government and may secretly be tempted to do so, the Free Democrat leaders are not prepared to move.

The point is that their votes as the election came largely from people who wanted them to continue in the coalition as a moderating influence. They have committed themselves and will not pull out unless the SPD made government impossible and the public clearly demanded a change.

Such a crisis is not inconceivable. The rebellion over defence is a sign that some SPD members, at least, are not prepared to go along with compromises which they feel they cannot support.

232 arrest warrants for Mafia nets 123

From John Earle Rome, Jan 26

In a nationwide operation 121 alleged members of 18 Mafia gangs operating along the west coast of Calabria were arrested at dawn today. They were accused of conspiracy, extortion and undertaking protection rackets in southern Italy, which is second only to Sicily as home of the Mafia or the *Ndrangheta* as it is called in the Calabrian dialect.

Carabinieri carried out the arrests in towns as far north as Turin and San Remo. Although 232 arrest warrants were issued, some of those involved are already in prison on other charges, while the rest are being sought.

Among those held is Signorina Concetta Rotura, a companion of Signor Michelangelo Franchini, the head of a gang who has been wanted for 25 years but never found. Specific charges against the purported members of two other gangs include the murder of the local Communist Party secretary at Rosarno near the new industrial area of Gioia Tauro, and a series of kidnappings in Rome, Milan and Genoa.

The authorities evidently hope to break the back of the Mafia in the province of Reggio Calabria, but previous experience from large-scale crackdowns in the south of Italy suggests that the effect is likely to be temporary.

French Communists switch tactics to fight election on two fronts

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Jan 26

Since the breakdown of the left alliance three years ago, the Communist Party's enemy number one has been M. Francois Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, and his party—all that changed last week.

The Communist objective had been to group the Socialists winning at the polls—at whatever costs, even if that meant keeping President Giscard d'Estaing and the "reactionary" policy of big capital in power.

M. Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, could have applied been described as the President's most valuable ally in the coming presidential contest—this despite M. Marchais's claim—when he put himself forward as his party's candidate for the Elysée. He represented the only genuinely "anti-Giscard" candidate in the lists.

M. Marchais had solemnly proclaimed that while other candidates for the presidency were indulging in the undignified campaign of personalities and scandals, including the Bokassa diamonds and the suicide of M. Robert Boulin, the former Labour Minister, he would insist, as he said last October, on a real debate about issues in a dignified atmosphere.

However, last week the Communist leader switched tactics and began gunning for the

President with a personal virulence which hitherto had been the hallmark of Mitterrand's sharp internal cut and thrust manner.

M. Marchais had once affected to scorn such tactics as unworthy of his party and himself. Then he deemed it unnecessary to resort to "personal attacks as a weapon of political combat".

Now the President seems to have taken over from Mitterrand as the French Communist Party's pet hate. This impression is strengthened by the fact that on the very same day when he lashed out at M. Giscard d'Estaing, M. Marchais—after a meeting in Rennes—declared: "Is my enemy the Socialist Party? No, absolutely not. My enemy is the policy of unemployment, of austerity for the workers, of restrictions of freedoms."

"Enough of this President without scruple who does not even shrink from the benefits for a family of all of whose members have built their careers and their fortunes on the frontiers of politics and finance, in that world of money where no title of nobility ever confers nobility of heart or mind," he said.

"Why this sudden change of tactics? The explanation that it was triggered off by the recent decision of the Conseil d'Etat

against the door-to-door canvassing of support for the party in some Communist municipalities in Paris was not quite satisfying.

The reason lies deeper. The strategy of the French Communist Party in the past couple of years has never been simple. To gun for the Socialists while pretending to demolish the right has taken some doing.

There have been signs that it has not been overly successful. As one commentator aptly put it, people find it hard to understand how M. Mitterrand, who is in opposition, can be more to blame than President Giscard d'Estaing for all the alleged woes.

The series of by-elections last autumn, showed that the Communist leadership's anti-socialist line was on the whole not appreciated and not obeyed; and opinion polls have confirmed the analysis.

M. Marchais therefore decided to adjust his tactics.

But this does not mean that M. Marchais is any keener to see M. Mitterrand installed in the Elysée Palace in place of President Giscard d'Estaing.

The Communist Party, under his inspiration, wants to be both in the van of the battle against the one, while effectively blocking the ambitions of the other. Its aim is to ensure that the Communists emerge in the long run as the strongest party of the left, which it is not at present.

The party does not want to be the fifth wheel of a Socialist Government, which would incur the inevitable odium of having promised the moon and proving unable to deliver it.

In the meantime, M. Marchais wages war on two fronts. He responds to the grass roots sentiment in his own party by indulging in personal attacks against the President, but at the same time, he effectively frightens away Gaullists and moderates of the road voters whom M. Mitterrand needs if he is to have any chance of winning by resurrecting the threat that if the left should triumph, his party would demand its share of the spoils and is ready to shoulder responsibility in a Socialist Government.



Elysée rivals: M. Mitterrand (left), the Socialist leader, and the unpredictable M. Marchais, the Communist leader.

Community assures Spain that entry date stands

From Michael Horsely Brussels, Jan 26

Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission, today assured Spain that the Community's entry date stands.

In a separate meeting with the EEC, the Community was still aiming at January 1, 1984, as the date for Spain's entry.

Mr Gaston Thorn recently ruffled feathers in Madrid by stating that the timing of Spanish entry would depend on how quickly the EEC completed the internal financial reforms on which it is to embark later this year.

It is not clear what Mr Thorn's pledge is worth since the pace of entry negotiations with both Spain and its neighbour Portugal will be determined essentially by EEC member states, among whom France is adamantly opposed to Spanish entry before completion of the internal reforms.

Mr Thorn also told Señor Punsat that the EEC would try to clear the easier negotiating

obstacles out of the way by the end of the summer, leaving the most difficult issues, such as agriculture, fisheries, removal of industrial tariffs and fiscal questions to be tackled later.

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Scientists working on spy satellites for UN

Paris, Jan 26.—A little-known group of space scientists have been working here for the past two years on France's proposal, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1978, to "police" the world with spy satellites monitoring troop movements and war preparations.

The basic idea is that, just as the United Nations has sent military contingents to such trouble spots as Katanga, Cyprus, Lebanon and Egypt, it should undertake similar missions with "spy satellites".

Both the United States and the Soviet Union have their own satellite surveillance system, photographing military and economic installations, but this information remains a secret in Washington and Moscow.

In May, 1978, France drew up a proposal under which there would be an international satellite control system operated by the United Nations. In December of that year the General Assembly adopted by

113 votes to nil, with 13 abstentions, a resolution urging that a group of government experts should study ways of creating such a system.

This group, presided over by a French military specialist, M. Hubert Bortzmeyer, is due to deliver its final report next month. It will then be debated in the General Assembly.

M. Hubert Curien, head of the National Centre of Space Studies, explained today that the system would have to be introduced by phases over "suspect areas" of the world.

In the second phase, the newly formed international agency would have to request its own special satellite communication wavelengths and make all the necessary arrangements with fellow-users. Finally, the agency would have to launch its own "spy" satellites.

The minimum cost of making the United Nations system operational would be an estimated £312m to £415m, Agence France-Press.

Driver's death by vandals stops Paris trains

From Ian Murray Paris, Jan 26

All trains serving the northern suburbs of Paris were stopped today by a strike called after a driver was killed on Saturday evening by a chunk of concrete deliberately thrown from a road bridge over the tracks near Aubervilliers.

The strike was a spontaneous act of solidarity working on the network who have been increasingly alarmed in recent months by the growing incidence of vandalism against trains.

In one case a driver just had time to fling himself to the floor when he saw a piece of concrete dangling from a wire at the level of his cabin windshield as the train emerged from a tunnel. The concrete smashed into the cab as the train was travelling at nearly 60 mph.

The weekend's more serious accident could have been caused in a similar way. The train, which links Paris with Charles de Gaulle airport, was travelling at nearly 80 mph when the concrete smashed the

windscreen, causing the driver fatal injuries. The train itself slowed and stopped when the driver released his hold on the "dead man's handle".

In 1979 there were 741 acts of vandalism reported on French railways, and last year the number rose to more than a thousand, according to returns so far.

The attacks have included several by snipers, using rifles, as well as large numbers of stone-throwing incidents involving children.

Last May a group of four boys put several blocks of concrete on the tracks of France's experimental high speed train "to see what the effect would be" when it hit them at 100 mph. Fortunately, the concrete was simply ground to powder.

The Paris Metro service was slightly disrupted today by a strike called in protest at a new signalling system, which the unions claim has caused several accidents, including one last week which killed a young woman.

Searchers find five bodies from Greek ship

Bodo, Norway, Jan 26.—Five bodies were recovered from empty dinghies and the sea today near where the 29,689-ton Greek cargo ship *Deimos* sank yesterday.

Twenty-nine members of the crew were picked up by helicopters from lifeboats yesterday and, according to the rescue headquarters here, three crewmen are still missing. The search for other possible survivors continued near the island of Vega.

OVERSEAS

Solidarity leader tries to avert clash over farmers' dispute

Warsaw, Jan 26.—Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, went to Rzeszow today in an effort to avert a clash between the Government and about 300 workers and farmers who continued a sit-in for the twenty-fourth day.

Meanwhile, a student protest in Lodz, south-west of Warsaw, is spreading. Students at the local university started an occupation strike several days ago and an estimated 1,000 students of the medical faculty followed suit with a sit-in last Friday.

They were demanding from the Government such concessions as abolition of compulsory classes in Marxist philosophy and economics. They also wanted a ban on police intervention to restore order at the university.

A spokesman for the Gdansk headquarters of Solidarity who reported Mr Walesa's departure, announced that the union's national coordinating commission would, for the first time, hold part of its meeting this week in Rzeszow.

The Warsaw branch of Solidarity unveiled plans for a general strike throughout the region on February 3 as part of a nationwide campaign to force the authorities to honour promises made to strikers last summer.

Both the union and the Government say they are ready to hold far-reaching talks on the whole range of their disputes, but by early afternoon today neither party had reported any schedule for negotiations.

The Poliburo of the Communist Party met Mr Stanislaw Kania, the party leader, today to review the general situation, a government spokesman said. "There is readiness for talks on the government side but no date has yet been fixed", the spokesman was quoted as saying.

The peasant farmers who have been staging the sit-in at Rzeszow are trying to force the authorities to legalize a Rural Solidarity union.

One big industrial plant in every region is being asked to call a two-hour warning strike on Wednesday in accordance

with a decision by Solidarity's national consultative commission to make it a day of struggle for Rural Solidarity.

The Rzeszow farmers, who are spearheading the Rural Solidarity campaign, threatened that further strikes would follow if the authorities still refused to budge.

The Supreme Court earlier this month suspended indefinitely a ruling on the legality of the farmers' union. The authorities say they are adamantly opposed to such an organization.

Czechoslovakia's official press said today that Mr Walesa was "radicalized" by his recent trip to Rome, where he visited the Pope, *Ruiz Pruvot*, the Communist Party daily also renewed accusations that Solidarity was trying to disrupt Poland's economy and that the West was guilty of "gross interference" in the country.

In another barrage, Czechoslovakia's official news agency CTK said the Polish independent labour movement appeared to be seeking a "personality cult situation".

Reuter and AP. French help: The French trade union organization Force Ouvrière plans to send two lorry loads of supplies to Solidarity (Agence France Presse writes from Paris).

The latest letters with paper, ink, stencils, printing materials and International Labour Organization documents translated into Polish, will get under way as soon as the union has been granted the necessary entry visas and possibly as soon as tomorrow morning, M. Andre Berserou, the union's secretary general, said.

Nobel nomination: Señor Adolfo Pérez Esquivel of Argentina, the 1980 Nobel peace prize laureate, today proposed Mr Lech Walesa for this year's prize describing him as "a symbol for liberation and a fighter for world peace." (Reuter writes from São Paulo).

He told a press conference held ahead of his nomination to call a two-hour warning strike on Wednesday in accordance

Hostage deal defended by Iranian Speaker

From Tony Alloway
Tehran, Jan 26

An Iranian politician today confirmed reports of a split in the dominant Islamic Republican Party over the deal that freed the hostages.

Hojatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani, Speaker of the Parliament, was asked at his weekly press conference about a leading article in the party's newspaper *Islamic Republic*, which said that the biggest benefit of the crisis was the replacement of "liberals" by clerics in positions of power.

"Firstly, I should say that those who have written this... have themselves resigned after this development", he replied, without identifying them.

Mr Hassan Ayat, an extremist parliamentary deputy and a member of the IRP central council, was vehemently opposed to the settlement, but he did not appear to enjoy much support in the Parliament. The Speaker's statement indicated that the rift might go deeper into the wide coalition that makes up the IRP.

He devoted most of his press conference to defending the terms of the hostage agreement against a rising chorus of protests. So did Mr Muhammad Ali Rajai, the Prime Minister, in a special speech to Parliament this morning.

In the Speaker's view, "the majority of people accept the deal... When we decided the hostages could no longer play a role in our policies, we brought an end to the issue."

Asked for Iran's reaction if the United States repudiated the agreement, the Speaker said: "I do not think the Americans are so stupid as to destroy their credibility in relation to their own undertakings."

"Of course, we would not



West Point welcome and a rest for the returning American hostages as their buses reach the military academy

stand idly by. We also have friends who will give us power, and we shall also work against American interests in other places."

Despite the benefits Iran would in the hostage affair, it would not be repeated, he said.

In Parliament Mr Rajai strongly defended the Government against what he described as two lines of criticism—those unhappy with the final terms and those totally against the hostages taking itself.

He told the first group: "No other Government could have taken more undertakings from the United States than we did." The second group, Mr Rajai said, were simply, counter-

revolutionaries. "Those who say, in a word, that with the hostage-taking Iran became a hostage of the United States don't know the principles of revolution."

He acknowledged that only \$2,880m (£1,200m) of Iranian assets had been transferred so far to Iran, but said Iran had used most of the rest to repay loans and interest.

"This was good for us because, firstly, Iran could rid itself of loans imposed by the former regime and, secondly, Iran would not be obliged to pay interest sometimes as high as 22.5 per cent", he said. Severe problems: A dozen of the 52 freed hostages were suf-

fering severe, mostly psychological, problems after their 444 days of captivity, President Reagan was told today (David Cross writes from Washington).

At a briefing by Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State Mr Reagan was also informed that most of the hostages wanted to get back to work as soon as possible. Reintegration in the work force was "extremely important to their mental health and their emotional well-being", Mr Haig said.

One of the "overwhelming concerns of the hostages was what the future would hold for their careers, Mr Haig said. The hostages and the closest members of their families continued to relax today at the West Point military base near New York, out of sight of the television cameras.

Bank bombed: A bomb exploded outside the Bank Mellat in San Francisco early today, shattering windows in the bank and those in another bank across the street. There were no injuries (AP writes from San Francisco).

A telephone call to news agencies said the bomb was set off by the Jewish Defence League because of persecution of Iranian Jewry, but the league's director denied responsibility.

The project still requires formal approval by a joint committee of Cabinet ministers and World Zionist Executive officials, as well as a budgetary allocation from the Government. Mr Ariel Sharon, chairman of the joint committee, is expected to press for an early start of the project in view of the decision to shorten the tenure of the Government.

Decision on West Bank settlements upheld

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Jan 26

The parliamentary foreign affairs and security committee, meeting in Jerusalem today, upheld a disputed Cabinet decision to establish three new Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank. The settlements will be the seventh, eighth and ninth of the 10 Mr Begin, the Prime Minister, has said would complete his government's settlement programme.

The committee rejected an appeal by Professor Yigal Yadin, the Deputy Prime Minister, against the Cabinet's decision, which he said would close options for a peace settlement. Under the coalition agreement, his party retains the right to appeal against Cabinet decisions to the committee, on which the parliamentary Opposition is represented. At today's meeting, Labour opposition deputies surprisingly supported the Government's decision or abstained in respect of two projects—Cekok Beth in the barren Judean wilderness and Mizpah Gorrin north-west of Hebron. They said both conformed more or less with the party's concept of settlement vital for Israel's security.

They voted solidly against Hinnat Beth, west of Jenin, which they said was sited in an area inhabited by Arabs. The project still requires formal approval by a joint committee of Cabinet ministers and World Zionist Executive officials, as well as a budgetary allocation from the Government. Mr Ariel Sharon, chairman of the joint committee, is expected to press for an early start of the project in view of the decision to shorten the tenure of the Government.

In a separate development, Herut Cabinet ministers clashed over a group of about 100 squatters who were preparing to spend their third night on a windswept hillside in Jerusalem, where the Government has planned a Jewish suburb, to be called Givon.

Mr David Levi, the Housing Minister, said plans for the project were nearing completion and the squatters were intruders who must be ejected. Mr Sharon argues that it will take years to build the suburb and the presence of Jewish settlers in the interim was vital. He wanted to provide temporary housing.

Confessions retracted: Two Druse brothers retracted their confession of murdering a political rival of their father, Knesset member Shaikh Jaber Moudi, he retracted statements to the police implicating themselves in the crime. Mr Shlomo Toussie Cohen, their Shimon said today. He said Shimon Moudi, an Israel Air Force officer and Dahesh Muadi, a prison warden, told him they were innocent of the murder of Shaikh Hamad Abu Rabis, in Jerusalem on January 12. They claim police had used improper methods to extract their confessions. The lawyer said he had not yet met the third brother, Hayeel, since he allegedly made his statement.

Mr Toussie-Cohen said he had written today to the Attorney General, protesting at police methods. He said Shimon Moudi told him he had been questioned in the case against his father and brother would be dropped if he assumed sole responsibility, and had been assured he would be freed after a "Sulha" or reconciliation feast, between the Druse and the Beduin.

French seek Nigerian support against Libya

From Ian Murray
Paris, Jan 26

Chad and Libya will be the central topic discussed at a series of meetings arranged this week for Mr Ishaya Adu, the Nigerian Foreign Minister. His official visit began today with a meeting with President Giscard d'Estaing.

Nigerian relations with France have been cool since Chad supported Biafra in the civil war over a decade ago. Nigeria has also been somewhat alarmed by what it considers to be continuing French imperialism.

The proposed merger between Chad and Libya has gone a long way towards smoothing relations again, with both France and Nigeria viewing the Libyan advance with equal concern. Nigeria, with its great oil reserves, is seen in France as a particularly stable nation in the area and of vital importance as a bastion against the communist ideas of President Gaddafi of Libya.

Like France, Nigeria wants to see the territorial integrity of Chad retained, although there are some reservations on the Nigerian side about the wisdom of France sending extra troops to Chad's neigh-

bours after the merger was announced. President Gaddafi has demanded the withdrawal of all French troops from Africa and is seeking to make this an issue for the Organization of African Unity to discuss.

Mr Ali Triki, the Libyan Foreign Minister, had been touring a number of African capitals in recent days to press this point, while claiming that it is still possible to maintain good relations with Paris.

In Chad itself fighting is continuing in the north east of the country, close to the Sudanese border, between Libyan and pro-Libyan troops and supporters of Hissene Habre, the former Chadian Defence Minister, who has enjoyed French support in the past.

In the south of the country Vice-President Wadal Kamougue has declared that the merger with Libya is an impossible marriage and he hinted in a television interview at the weekend that he might be prepared to invite French troops into Chad.

It is highly unlikely France would be tempted to do such a thing, other than to save French nationals in the country who might be threatened by the civil war.

Afghan guerrilla groups increasingly divided

From Hasan Akhtar
Islamabad, Jan 26

The differences among the various groups of Afghan guerrillas seem to be becoming sharper, at a time when they expect all the Islamic states and other nations opposed to Soviet expansionism to take effective steps to force the Soviet Union to withdraw from Afghanistan.

Today a leader of one of the Afghan groups accused the leaders of two others invited to the Islamic summit in Taif, Saudi Arabia, of being opposed to the Islamic character of the revolution in Afghanistan. Mr Qazi Muhammad Amin Waqad, chairman of the political committee of the extreme right-wing *Hezb-E-Islami*, Afghan, said even suggested that Mr Syed Ahmed Gijani, leader of National Islamic Front of Afghanistan and Sibghatullah Mujaddidi, leader of Afghan National Liberation, who are attending the Islamic summit, were influenced by pro-communist elements in Afghanistan.

Mr Qazi Waqad alleged that these two leaders were even responsible for misuse of aid to the Afghan refugees. He

failed to say how they were misusing the aid, but said assistance offered to them and their colleagues was a misuse of Islamic funds.

Mr Qazi Waqad also described the Pakistani efforts to get a dialogue with Kabul under United Nations auspices as of no importance to him and his party. He said that the Islamic Front (IF) and the Islamic Front (IF) would not be acceptable to the Islamic Front (IF) and he hinted in a television interview at the weekend that he might be prepared to invite French troops into Chad.

He called on the heads of Islamic states to send a study mission to Afghanistan for immediate action. He said that the Islamic Front (IF) would not be acceptable to the Islamic Front (IF) and he hinted in a television interview at the weekend that he might be prepared to invite French troops into Chad.

Cool meeting between two presidents

Continued from page 1
blow to Muslim hopes and aspirations "at a time when our total effort should have been devoted to meet the grave challenges in Palestine and Afghanistan".
But the Afghan Government, like the Iranian Government, had sent no delegate to the summit that marks the dawn of the Muslim fifteenth century.
The Iranian flag, trapped on the aluminium staff outside the conference chamber but there

Mozambique earns British thanks for Zimbabwe help

By David Spanfer
Diplomatic Correspondent

The need to maintain pressure on South Africa in order to bring about a political settlement in Namibia was emphasised by Mr Joaquim Chissano, the Foreign Minister of Mozambique, in talks with Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, in London, yesterday.

Since the independence of Zimbabwe, relations between Britain and Mozambique have greatly improved, Lord Carrington expressed his special thanks to Mr Chissano for the support which Mozambique provided in the run-up to independence in Zimbabwe.

The present round of talks covers trade and economic development in which Mozambique is seeking to extend contacts with Britain. Today

Mr Chissano will call on Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, and meet members of Parliament, including Lord Soames, former Governor of Rhodesia. Tomorrow he continues his official visit with a tour of the port of Liverpool.

So far as Namibia is concerned, the British Government remains committed to elections and independence, as laid down in the United Nations plan. But until the new American Administration has had time to study the question more fully, little progress is expected.

Mr Luce, Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Foreign Office, will visit Uganda between January 30 and February 4. It was announced yesterday. This will be the first ministerial contact with President Obote since his election.

Cardinal Hume's parting shot at Nationality Bill

The Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Hume, who flew to West Germany yesterday, reaffirmed his opposition to the Nationality Bill before he left.

In a statement issued on Sunday, Cardinal Hume and other Catholic archbishops of England and Wales told Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, of their "grave misgivings" over the controversial Bill, which is due for its second reading in the Commons today.

At Heathrow Cardinal Hume said: "There is no doubt that the Bill is causing a lot of insecurity and worry among a number of people resident in this country. One can only hope that those responsible will take into consideration our statement."

Food shortage in Kampala after price cuts ordered

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Jan 26

Market vendors and small traders in Kampala had almost nothing to sell today, after government and party leaders had ordered them to reduce the prices of everyday items by as much as 80 per cent in an effort to control inflation.

The traders said they could not buy supplies to sell at these prices, because farmers were insisting on a realistic return for their produce.

Last week hundreds of small vendors and hawkers were rounded up by police, and their small stocks were confiscated. This and the subsequent order to cut selling prices had thrown the established distribution system into confusion, and city workers found it impossible to buy food today.

The Government of President Milton Obote has declared war on smuggling, black markets and corruption. But Ugandans say there is little point in declaring unrealistically low prices if this means that no food is placed on sale.

The new "official" prices reduce a bunch of plantains, the local staple diet, from shillings 22 to 75 shillings, while milk which has been selling at 30 shillings a half-litre packet is supposed to sell at three shillings.

The Uganda High Court is due to examine the first of a series of election petitions this week, filed by the opposition Democratic Party to challenge the results of last month's elections which brought the Uganda People's Congress to power.

The union argued forcefully against further restrictive legislation to control the press, pointing out that newspapers were already subject to almost 100 laws. Some of these laws, such as the Internal Security Act, the Defence Act and recently introduced laws on seditious, obscene and obscene, already give the authorities extensive powers.

While continuing to pay lip service to the principle of press freedom, successive Nationalist Governments have sought to impose greater controls on South African newspapers which still manage to remain remarkably free and outspoken.

However, the Government is anxious to retain the remnants of its tattered democratic image in the western world, so far avoided approving a press Bill. The draft of such a Bill was introduced in Parliament three years ago, only to be ignominiously dropped.

South African black newspaper to arise from ashes of old

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Jan 26

Blacks in the Johannesburg area are to have a new daily newspaper from the beginning of next week. It will replace *The Post*, which was forced out of business after the Government announced last week that it planned to ban it and its sister publication *The Sunday Post*.

The new paper is the *Sowetan*, at present is published as a weekly. It is produced by the Argus Company which published *The Post* and before that *The World*, which was banned in 1977.

Announcing his company's plans to turn the *Sowetan* into a daily paper, Mr Hal Miller, the managing director of Argus, said that the paper's editor would be Mr Joe Larakogomo, who was acting editor of *The Post* at the time of its closure.

Mr Miller said that many of the black journalists who used to work on *The Post* would be employed by the new daily. However, it was necessary to refresh some of the editorial staff.

In the meantime Mr Justice M. T. Steyn, who is heading a commission of inquiry into the mass media in South Africa, said today that he wanted access to information which led to the enforced closure of the *Post* papers.

However, Mr Kobie Coetsee, the Justice Minister, who had accused the two papers of creating a "revolutionary climate" in the country, said he had no plans to give evidence to the commission.

The enforced closure of the two papers has focused attention on the Government-appointed commission, which for the past five months has been accumulating volumes of evidence on the mass media.

Mr Steyn is a former Administrator of South-West Africa (Namibia) and, more importantly, the author of a 217-page report last April into press reporting of police and defence matters.

The Steyn Commission's terms of reference are to: "Inquire into and report on the question whether the conduct of, and the handling of matters by, the mass media

meet the needs and interests of the South African community and the demands of the times, and, if not, how they can be improved."

The breadth and ambiguity of these terms of reference have been interpreted by government critics as thinly disguised attempt by Mr Pieter Botha's administration to use the Steyn Commission as a basis for imposing stricter controls on the South African press.

This view has been reinforced by a study of Mr Steyn's earlier report, which received scant attention at the time it was published.

That document contained a clear suggestion that there should be a partnership between the Government and the press and that both should have a commitment to the Prime Minister's "total strategy"—the strategy whereby Mr Botha is trying to co-opt as many South African individuals and institutions into supporting his ostensibly reformist and confederalist policies.

The report stated that the Government required a clear

information and communications policy as "an integral part of its national strategy." Such policy would aim to promote the national strategy and neutralize the propaganda onslaught against South Africa," it said.

Nothing that has been heard or said since the present Steyn Commission began sitting last August has indicated that there has been any significant shift in the official thinking about how newspapers should operate.

The commission, which is now sitting in Cape Town, has heard a mass of evidence from a wide variety of sources. These have ranged from newspaper editors, who have pleaded for fewer rather than more controls, to disgruntled MPs—and even to a member of the defence forces "psychological intelligence" department, who argued that newspapers had an important role to play within the Government's concept of "total strategy."

Last week the commission heard a lengthy submission from the Newspaper Press Union, which represents all but two of South Africa's regular

daily and weekly newspapers. As part of its submission, the union expressed its "deep concern" at a system which led to the closure of *The Post* and *The Sunday Post*.

The union argued forcefully against further restrictive legislation to control the press, pointing out that newspapers were already subject to almost 100 laws. Some of these laws, such as the Internal Security Act, the Defence Act and recently introduced laws on seditious, obscene and obscene, already give the authorities extensive powers.

While continuing to pay lip service to the principle of press freedom, successive Nationalist Governments have sought to impose greater controls on South African newspapers which still manage to remain remarkably free and outspoken.

Fashion

by
Suzy Menkes

I have often wondered why there was no British national costume. Austrians have lederhosen and braided pinnafors, Spaniards can sport mantillas and Americans can certainly lay claim to blue jeans. We British have nothing we can identifiably wear as our own.

But last week, as I searched for heavyweight woollens, I realized that Our Island Race has a national wardrobe in traditional knits. Aran, Guernsey and Fair Isles have never been more popular as fashion garments. We take them absolutely everywhere.

wear, yet in them are such a wealth of generations of folklore: waves, parterres, ropes, anchors, knots—the enduring symbols of seafaring folk.

It is difficult to be dramatic about the homely craft of knitting or to think of a winter woolliness as an art form. But by use of life's familiar images, we have begun to appreciate the hand-knitted as a craft. It is when the traditional knitters and wearers are being lured away—one to work on an oil rig or in a hotel, the other towards machine-washable factory knits.

There is a long tradition of a tradition of a thousand years, according to Mr William Bill, whose Bond Street shops are filled with soft Scottish woollens—cashmere rugs as fine as a Scotch snuff, cheery road-dome-striped shetland tweeds, and tweeds patterned after the Isle of Jura. The traditional fairisle yokes and hand-woven tweeds neatly labelled with the name of its creator.

There is an enormous demand for the famous Harris tweeds and for hand-knitted woollens, picked up from overseas customers. But secretarial work for oil companies is more rewarding and appealing to many a Mrs MacGregor than toiling away alone in the back parlour on what always used to be a labour of love.

—*John MacGregor, in Scotland*

money, according to Mr Padruighe. Goodman, chairman of Inverclyde Knitters, a specialist hand-knitting company that finds its stock once local wares now in demand as far afield as Japan and Australia, as well as in fashionable

are internationally on sale, appear in the Book of Kells, where Daniel feeds the dragons in an earlier incarnation of an Aran mini-dress and tights, probably already being revived by some sharp-eyed fashion designer). The Icelandic sweaters, knitted on a circular needle, also have an ancient historical tradition. Mr Good-mann tells me that the same technique used by Inverlallach's knitters can be seen in a madonna and child painting done in Hamburg in 1400, where the baby Jesus is having a matinee jacket knitted up by the Wise Men. (I am sure they soon became wise enough to leave knitting to their wives.)

Do you really care who knitted your sweater, especially if you can get it cheaper off the factory floor? I am not one of those enthusiasts who believes that it adds to life's pleasures to know the benedict who laid your breakfast egg. But individual hand-knits are not unduly expensive for what you get and are immensely appealing.

Because the traditional knits were developed as working clothes for sailors and fishermen, they remain supremely practical, especially for these bleak winter months, when our wardrobe seems as dull as their

The First Lady's fashion style is the epitome of band-bow American chic, what that transatlantic fashion bible, *Women's Wear Daily*, dubs as "American thoroughbred style".

Nancy Reagan's favourite designer is the Cuban-born Adolfo whose grand ball-gowns with rustling ruffles skirts grace the best Washington



Above: Traditional Aran cardigan in Bannin wool with bone buttons £41.50, natural only. Fair Isle shetland slipover made to order (three-months delivery) £47.50, both from W. Bill, 93 New Bond Street.
W1. Checked sports shirt by Laurel £21.95, bow-tie £7.95, scarf £1.95, culotte skirt in sage green, khaki or navy £26.95. Ribbed tights by Elbeo £4.50 and leather and wool gloves £4.95, all from Fenwick or Bond Street. Studded leather ankle boots in khaki, green, blue or white £24.99 from Lilley and Skinner.
Leit: Guernsey dress with symbolic patterned yoke and knotted hem £35 in air force blue, navy, bottle green or red from Guernseys Galore, 49 Moreton Street, London, SW1.
Plaid cashmere rug worn as shawl from W. Bill, 93 New Bond Street and 23 Old Bond Street, London, W1. Tartan belt £1.95, check shirt in beige or green £21.95, leather patched gloves £4.95 and Elbeo ribbed tights £4.50 all from Fenwick of Bond Street.
Make-up by Arianne for Models One.
Hair by Lundy at Toni Guy, Piccadilly.

edden skies and the new
clothes in the shops are
primarily thin.

A tide of eager shoppers
surged through Guernsey
Salore when it was looking
after the traditional sweater
have revived or adapted for the
current fashion climate. We
saw a debt of gratitude to the
Guernsey in Guernsey
who asked one knitter to write
down her pattern in 1946, when
the island's knitting tradition
had been all but lost through
the Occupation and through
the advent of machine knits.

The term, and the tradition
fishermen's knots round the
bottom, the ripples of sand in
part stitch, the ribbed sea-
ways and fish-shaped
which will be bearing on
today, even if it has crassly

been elongated into a sweater
dress or made in a range of 14
colours as well as the tradi-
tional sailor blue.

The test of a true Guernsey
is that it is a pound and
natives is wearers. Selling a
sweater that is more or less
guaranteed indestructible
is a far cry from any
business methods. It certainly
adds to the charm.

■ Nancy Reagan looked splendid in her poster paint red coat and hat at the inauguration ceremony, like some bright robin bobbing beside the new President.

His latest spring summer collection, designed by Ken Fleetwood, and shown last week, was a mix of current and ready-to-wear with the emphasis on tailoring and texture, and casual styling for the office.

There were some exceptionally pretty fabrics used with great imagination and style, especially in a series of silk afternoon dresses (where else

The nearest we have got to first Lady fashion style in Britain is Hardy Amies, whose couture house in Savile Row as just celebrated its 35th anniversary.

Can you get them? And in a border, printed silk chiffon evening dress with blocks of colour picked out to band the hem.

Trousers feature more

the women we like to see in



George Michael, this rare man among hairdressers who

believes only in dry club cutting and simple setting, told her that Oriental women have the glossiest long hair because of their diet.

Fortified not by a Chinese

take-away but by his treatment products, you are expected to return only to have a few split ends removed or to have your hair washed and put up (\$9.50) or left down (\$7.50).

Some more tricks of the trade: George Michael has learned in his Madison Avenue salon in New York: are not to click the scissors and so frighten off his clients, and to use brushes

hand-made from the skin of a wild boar. And I wonder who trimmed that poor beast. . . .

PARLIAMENT, January 26, 1981

£990m for BL to fund corporate plan over two years

House of Commons

The Government is to make available £990m to BL over the next two years to fund the company's corporate plan, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, announced in a statement.

Sir Keith Joseph said: The corporate plan contains BL's strategy for returning the company's businesses to viability in the medium term. It foresees the raising of some £520m of additional Government equity in 1981-82, £370m in 1982-83, and £150m over the two following years, in order to assist the continuing process of restructuring and investment in new projects, including the new LC10 medium car family.

The plan was submitted to four business sectors. The policy of the BL Board has been (and will continue to be) to decentralise decision-making to the operating units. The intention of the Board as stated in the plan is to draw these operating units into four distinct businesses to enable management to concentrate on well-defined product groupings.

These businesses are BL Cars, Land-Rover, Unipart and the Leyland Group. As the structure evolves, so the progress of each business will be separately monitored.

The Board is meanwhile exploring a variety of possible forms of collaboration, and has written to the Government in the following terms:

The Board sees collaboration with other manufacturers as an important part of its strategy for recovery and for reducing and eventually removing dependence on Government aid. This might take the form of collaborations on components or on particular parts of the business; but the Board would not think of this as a more comprehensive kind which might grow out of such collaboration.

The Government supports BL's intention of creating viable businesses and of attracting private capital into them. It has approved the plan, and has agreed to fund the first two years of the plan (including the first phase of the LC10 programme) to the extent of £990m in 1981-82 and £370m in 1982-83.

US being pressed to deregulate gas prices

The Government was pressing the Government of the United States to accelerate the deregulation of its gas prices, Mr Norman Lamont, Under Secretary for Energy, said during a question on the additional cost to British industry of the recent increase in gas prices.

Mr Lamont (Kingston upon Thames, C): The most recent available figures show that for the first three quarters of 1980 the increase in gas prices, if there were no alteration in consumption, would represent an additional cost to the consumers of some £1,000 million.

Mr Philip Whitehead (Derby, North, Lab): Is he aware of the extremely serious position of Cornwall where the recent increases have added £200,000 to the bill for a firm which has just shed 2,000 of its 6,000 employees?

Mr Lamont: I am aware of the representations made on behalf of firms in his constituency. One of them will certainly benefit from the concessions which the Secretary of State for Energy (Mr David Howell) has announced recently, about the price for new gas contracts.

Britain is at a disadvantage on gas prices compared with the United States. Firms are going out of business as a result of the Government's policy.

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Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton, North, C): Although we fully

Concern at escalating costs

Mr Norman Lamont, Under Secretary for Energy, said that he was concerned about the escalation of costs in advanced gas cooled reactors generally. The industry had to come to grips with its costs otherwise the economic case of nuclear power would be endangered.

The situation, he said, is not one that can leave us complacent. Mr Lamont said during questions.

Move to block national insurance rise fails

House of Lords

Under the Social Security (Contributions) Bill, a section of earners would be bearing an unfair burden compared to people earning high incomes, Lord Hailsham, Conservative, said in a speech.

On Clause 1 (Increase in contributions), he made an amendment further to increase the contributions of people earning more than £200 a week.

He said the Bill provided for an increase of 1 per cent in the national insurance rates of those earning between a lower amount of £22 a week and an upper amount of £200 a week. There was a need for every government to raise more money to meet a variety of different types of expenditure, but the method adopted in this Bill was seriously open to question and, in some measure, quite unfair.

Under the Bill, a £27 a week earner would pay 7.5 per cent of his earnings as would the £200 a week earner, but he was not likely to be eligible for income tax so the extra 1 per cent he was required to pay was a form of taxation.

The person earning £200 a week would pay £15.50 per week national insurance contribution. At this point, the amount remained fixed, regardless of what he might earn in future and regardless of what anybody else was earning.

The amendment provided that anybody earning above £200 a week should pay an extra 1 per cent or £1 per week for every additional £100 of earnings. If the Government needed to raise more money, this was the most equitable way to do it.

Lord Nugent of Guildford (C) said the effect of the Bill with all the curious anomalies of the national insurance fund was to levy a charge on the citizens. The practical

effect of this was exactly the same as changing the incidence of taxation.

Lady Young, Minister of State for Education, said this was not a money Bill. It was quite proper for the House to discuss it. Although she would not support the amendment, she understood this would be possible should the House wish to do so.

She understood the House did not want to amend money Bills and this Bill was concerned with a fund and therefore it was technically possible for peers to amend it.

The amendment would have a profound effect on the Government's medium-term strategy. Such a change would be quite workable for both employers and the Department of Health and Social Security.

Even if it were workable it would be financially disastrous. The amendment would mean the primary contribution proposed in the Bill would be reduced from 7.5 per cent to 6.5 per cent and there would therefore be a loss of £500m.

The additional primary contribution would be reduced from 7.5 per cent to 6.5 per cent. The national insurance fund would risk being in deficit by about £500m.

The amendment was withdrawn.

An amendment to reduce the proposed contribution from 7.5 per cent to 7 per cent was rejected by 131 votes to 66—Government majority, 65.

The committee and report stages were concluded.

The Merchant Shipping and Parliamentary Commissioner (Consular Complaints) Bills were read the third time and passed.

The Forgery and Counterfeiting Bill was read a second time.

House adjourned, 6.38 pm.

'No guarantee that this vast payment will be the last'

Mr Stanley Orme, chief Opposition spokesman on industry (Salford, West Lab): The Opposition welcome the fact that the Government is to support the corporate plan to the tune of £1,000m because we believe, as obviously the Government believes, that this company is vital to the economy of this nation and to the million jobs attached to British Leyland in one form or another.

Therefore we think that, despite the opposition from the Government, the Opposition will support the Government's decision.

Will he give an assurance that this money will not lead to cuts in other parts of the public sector?

We want more details about the four sections which the corporate plan recommends, the fact that the National Enterprise Board and the reference to private investment in part of its statement.

We would like to know the Government's view on the fact that when the House will get a full day's debate to deal with the Leyland sector.

Then there is the key factor of labour relations in British Leyland. It is why production has increased and productivity, one of the plan, very quickly initiate a review (in consultation with the Government) of the plan of the relevant business group, with consequent implications for continued Government funding.

The Board and management have assured me that they will not hesitate to take whatever difficult and fundamental decisions about the future of the company, inside or outside BL, require it.

There will be an opportunity for full debate in the context of the amendment to the NEB's financial limit in respect of BL in the industry, which is a matter for consideration by the House.

Clearance from the European Commission will be needed for the Government's plan.

Finally, it is the Government's intention that the shareholding in BL should be transferred from the National Enterprise Board to the Secretary of State. This transfer will not, however, take place until the Industry Bill now before Parliament is passed.

Meanwhile the Government will discuss with BL matters arising from the change of ownership, in particular the transfer of BL's financial arrangements.

The Government wishes the BL Board and the company's employees well in their task.

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and allow that which has turned that company round—higher than average wages for car-workers in that industry?

Sir Keith Joseph: I cannot believe he is giving us good advice. The decision about pay is for the board and workers of British Leyland.

Mr John Bruce-Gardyne (Knutsford, C): Could he elaborate on his reply about where these funds are to come from? Are they to come from increased taxation of private enterprise business, from a higher level of borrowing, from a higher rate of interest and a higher exchange rate, or are they to come from the Treasury?

Sir Keith Joseph: The Government has to clear the money. It is not from taxing, borrowing or printing. There is no other source. The actual allocation of this cannot be traced and identified as this is a matter for the private sector.

Sir Keith Joseph: I must refer him to the BL report.

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lynton, C): While I have no objection to the principle of investing public funds in the number of people whose jobs depend upon British Leyland, has

the Government a particular skill in affecting labour relations inside the private firms?

Mr Michael Giffys (Surrey, North, Lab): Everybody in this House wants, and prays, that BL in the end will succeed. The cost has been high for every second Sir Michael Edwards has been chairman of BL, or £1,000 for every small business in the whole of Britain.

Money is not the cure-all for British Leyland. What it needs is increased productivity rather than more subsidies. The Government has to ensure that it can only succeed by its own exertions.

Sir Keith Joseph: I agree with that. It needs good models and the Government is not a witness to the introduction of new models.

Mr Greville Janner (Leicester, Lab): When considering the number of people whose jobs depend upon British Leyland, has

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he taken into account the hundreds of thousands of people not employed by British Leyland but who manufacture parts and provide services in the East Midlands and elsewhere and who welcome this decision as much as the people directly employed by Leyland?

Sir Keith Joseph: Yes. He would be misleading himself when he talks about hundreds of thousands of people.

Mr Alan Clark (Plymouth, Sutton, C): Many of us see the need for an industrial strategy and for the diversion of some public funding to the private sector. The decision about securing private capital in different parts of BL is for the board, and the timing and extent is for them.

Mr David Pennington (Tunbridge Wells, C): In what way has the Government used its influence to try to consolidate recent improvements in labour relations or are they continuing to rely on a policy of expropriation?

Sir Keith Joseph: I do not think the Government has a particular skill in affecting labour relations inside the private firms.

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THE ARTS

Ashbee's inexhaustible fund of decorative ideas

C. R. Ashbee and the Guild of Handicraft Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum

Robin Tanner/
Turner and the Bible
Ashmolean Museum,
Oxford

Sir Francis Chantrey,
Sculptor of the Great
National Portrait
Gallery

C. R. Ashbee, evidently, was one of those people who could provoke only extreme reactions in persons he seems to have been either adored or detested, and much the same has gone for his work, at least during the periods since his heyday when it has been considered at all. He was, clearly, an English eccentric. By formation he was a Cambridge aesthete, but under the influence of Edward Carpenter he developed a mildly fantastic cult of the working lad (whom he was, admittedly, rather likely to transform in his imagination into a Greek god, particularly when encountered nude in the midst of the Cotswold countryside). But unlike most such dreamers of the 1890s he set out to do something practical about his fantasies, by forming in the East End a Guild of Handicraft which would gather together and train young workers and, he hoped, offer a viable alternative to the industrial revolution both in the way of life it proposed and in the crafts it produced.

It worked rather better, and longer, than most such ventures largely because of Ashbee's own talents as a designer, and because of the worldly wisdom that he buried somewhere in his complex nature. This latter enabled him to deal with all classes of men when it suited his purpose, negotiating the rocky and perilous quixotic moves in 1902 of the whole guild from the Mile End Road to Chipping Campden, and keep it going in its new environment for five productive years. It is this period in Ashbee's career which provides the central matter for a fascinating new exhibition which is in

Cheltenham, about as close as may be to the original location of the venture, until February 23, and will arrive in London at the Fine Art Society in early May. There is, however, a particularly good reason for seeing it in Cheltenham if one can, as there it is located right next to the museum's permanent collection of the contemporary Cotswold arts-and-crafts community, prominent among them the furniture makers Ernest Gimson and the Darnley brothers, whose work does give an invaluable context to that of Ashbee and his followers.

The range of Ashbee's own designs and those made under his supervision is astonishing. His style is a curious compromise between the contemporary norm and the new trends introduced by the Aesthetic Revival, the Arts and Crafts Movement and, most dubious of all, Continental Art Nouveau, the very idea of which was anathema to Ashbee. Walter Crane, Daubigny and their kind, even though their influence is very perceptible. The most highly regarded of Ashbee's work these days, rightly, is his fine metalwork, particularly the beaten silver. Here, and in his related jewelry, he had an inexhaustible fund of decorative ideas, but allied with a strong feeling for massing and overall construction (even on a very small scale), and a sense of rhythm and balance, he produced a style which is both original and convincing.

Ashbee's furniture, to my taste, is considerably less accomplished: here the classic fluted legs sort fill with the turn-of-the-century shapes of the rest. But the books Ashbee created for his own Essex House Press look very good. It has long been the fashion to dismiss Ashbee's type-designs as aberrant because they were so eclectic in their incorporation of hints from all over, but it must be admitted that as laid out by him and combined with his own black-and-white illustrations (in most cases the printer's work was done by him) they seem perfectly fitted to their place in his own personal kind of the Book Beautiful.

After the collapse of the guild in 1907 Ashbee stayed on in the Cotswolds for some years, increasingly out of touch with the central matter of his life, the guildsmen, more successfully,

reformed themselves into a looser, more practical association, the traces of which still persist in present-day Campden. And of course the Cotswolds have anyway remained the craft centre of England. An artist-craftsman who has lived all his life hard by, in his home town of Chippingham or in the adjacent parts of Wiltshire and Gloucestershire, is Robin Tanner, a striking retrospective of whose work is currently on show at the Ashmolean (until February 22) after a successful opening in Bristol. Robin Tanner is now 76, and still as busy as ever drawing and etching and readying for publication *Woodland Plants*, a magnum opus written by his wife and illustrated by himself which has been in leisurely progress for the past 40 years.

Tanner is virtually the type of the quiet, self-effacing, essentially conservative artist who cultivates his own garden, perfects his own small area of art and lets the rest of the world go by except for his teaching activities (to judge from the work of some of his youngest pupils on show here he must have been a teacher of genius). What he does in his art is to draw and etch, almost obsessively, the plants and flowers of the English countryside. The etchings are perhaps his best-known work, though that is saying little, despite the sterling work done by Robin Carron in recent years to familiarize it. A perfectionist, during more than 50 years, he has made only 31 prints, all of them included in the show and all illustrated and described in *The Etcher's Craft*, a book entirely lettered by him which has been published by the Friends of Bristol Art Gallery to coincide with the exhibition (E10).

Small though the corpus of work is, it unmistakably takes its place in the great tradition of Palmer and the English rural visionaries. But what one could not guess from even the best reproductions is the fineness of his ink and penell drawings of plants, many of them made, modestly enough, to illustrate a local seedsmen's catalogue. You have to look very closely to work out that some of them are actually ink drawings rather than etchings or engravings, but however closely you look you cannot account for the mysterious intensity of these images, suffused as they are with an almost mystical pantheistic sense of the oneness of all creation. In this at least, Tanner is the true heir of the



left: Chantrey's Lady Louisa Russell; above: silver mounted decanter (1901) by Ashbee

Pre-Raphaelites: his concern for the exact rendering of physical reality is so minute that his art takes on an hallucinatory quality, passing insensibly over from realism to surrealism without our ever quite knowing what hit us.

While in the Ashmolean it is well worth taking a look at a small but intriguing exhibition on the subject of Turner and the Bible, which documents the various stages by which Turner took information from drawings done on the spot in Bible lands by Sir Charles Barry and others and turned it into watercolours which were then made over again by the engraver into Finden's *Landscape Illustrations of the Bible* (1833-36). All stages are visible in the show, and easily the most fascinating part of it is the insight it offers into the creative process: one can



actually catch Turner in the act of becoming Turner.

Similar insights are proffered on a contemporary of Turner's, the sculptor Sir Francis Chantrey, in an exhibition now at the National Portrait Gallery (until May 17). Chantrey was a model rags-to-riches story such as capacious foreigners always imagine cannot happen in class-bound British society. He began his career as a grocer's lad, and progressed by degrees to being the most fashionable portrait sculptor of his time, knighted, hobnobbing socially with the great and famous, and able to leave at the time of his death in 1841 the extraordinary fortune of £150,000, mostly for the setting up of the fund named after him for the encouragement of British art. His reputation otherwise has faded to such a degree that few except specialists would have much idea what his own art was like, but this show, though not large, makes handsome amends.

It has two particularly good ideas. For one thing, it is not set aside, a rather forbidding and funeral assemblage of marble busts, but integrated into the relevant period rooms of the collection, so that we may, for instance, examine a bust of James Watt right next to a painted portrait of him,

and take advantage of all the background information and material with which the gallery now supplements its regular displays. For another, it has a completely admirable catalogue by Alex Potts which tells us all sorts of practical things we want to know: for instance, how did Chantrey go about transferring his observations from clay model to finished marble (it transpires that he made minimal use of assistants, and how much money was he paid for his work?).

The sculptures themselves are surprisingly lively and characterful: as in the Lawrence show, one is amazed at how little concern the artist apparently felt, or was required to feel, for flattery in his sitters. The grand Neo-Classical style of Canova is constantly humanized by reference to earlier local traditions, particularly that of Roubiliac, whom Chantrey specially admired and whose influence is very clear in, notably, the bust of Horne Tooke, author of *The Diversions of Purley*. But for believable likenesses of many more great and famous than that, from William IV and the young Queen Victoria down, Chantrey is definitely your man.

John Russell Taylor

Philharmonia/Muti Festival Hall

William Mann

Concert managers are often berated for their timorous programme-building, and these days they can blame the recession as well as the cowardliness of concertgoers in face of a programme containing even one modern work. Fortunately the Philharmonia Orchestra have Riccardo Muti as their musical director and he, like his predecessor Abbado of the LSO, has a conscience and an enthusiasm for the music of his and our time. On Sunday Muti conducted a whole programme of twentieth-century music, and the hall was full.

The main work was Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*, admittedly something like a popular classic and almost 70 years old, although still as thrilling and enthralling as any music I know. He also had John Williams as soloist in the concerto, which was Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* (1940) whose slow movement became *El Parado* material a little while ago. The only relatively unfamiliar item was Lutoslawski's *Funeral Music*, which is short and approachable.

The concert did prove that a popular Sunday night symphony concert can be devised from music composed since 1912, and a nicely varied pro-

gramme it was too. The Lutoslawski, much concerned with solo string textures, made an attractive shop window for the Philharmonia's string department and was deployed by Muti with proper involvement in its two inner movements, and grave lucidity in the canons which frame them.

Rodrigo's guitar concerto, so winsome and spirited on first acquaintance, turns out later to consist, in its first two movements, of one cliché after another, cleverly but not inexhaustibly strung together. It can still give pleasure when deftly turned, as it was in this performance by John Williams, who must long ago have seen through its superficial glamor; and when does not stale in the acute orchestral writing to contrast and converse with the solo instrument.

We were waiting to discover what Muti would make of *The Rite of Spring*. Anyone who expected the tactics of a bull at a gate was mistaken. He began with an almost impressionistic flexibility, and approached much of the savage or impetuous music cautiously, as if still admiring the craftsmanship and the marvellous sonorities. The *Springtime Round* section and the beginning of the second part benefited from his care, and both halves ended with some gusto; but much of the performance was disappointingly tame.

Alfred Brendel Festival Hall

Joan Chissell

It is always something of a surprise that anyone as much of a specialist in the Viennese classics as Alfred Brendel should also be so penetrating and powerful a champion of Liszt. His piano recital in the South Bank series on Sunday afternoon was divided between those two different schools, and again he emerged a stylist in both.

For sheer magic of sonority there was nothing in the whole programme more ravishing, in its liquid, shimmering delicacy, than Liszt's *Grand duo d'au la Villa d'Este* played as an encore. It brought just the right relaxation after a reading of the B minor sonata of exhausting (for the listener) cumulative intensity and might. Pregnant as was the opening, Mr Brendel still kept much in reserve for the dramatic climax of the first section, so that the Andante sostenuto, when it came, was like a retreat into a holy world. Rarely can I recall a more beautifully timed or noble unfolding

of this slow section of the work. If the launching of the fugue seemed marginally too fast for complete clarity of articulation, this last section culminated in a breathtaking burst of *fuoco* occurs before the great moment of B major triumph—and a coda like a benediction. Liszt's *Valée d'Obermann* preceded the sonata, its sombre main theme all the more cutting for the steady edge Mr Brendel brings to his cantabile when he feels it necessary.

Haydn, Beethoven and Schubert shared the first half, starting with the C major sonata (possibly his last) written by Haydn on his second visit to London. In *Rollercoaster* and quirkily were dispatched with delightful dry humour before Mr Brendel moved on, almost making you think he had changed his instrument, to the lyrical *Andante* of Schubert's *An die Natur* (nicknamed "favori"). From Schubert he chose not one of the mature A minor sonatas more frequently heard from him, but the earliest in that key, D537, respecting its youth and its quietude, and in the same time achieving expressive miracles through artful savouring of chromaticism and colouring of texture—the latter nowhere more winningly than in the allegretto.

RSC/Medici Quartet Wigmore Hall

Paul Griffiths

I must admit to having had some misgivings about the prospect of Sunday evening's "Intimate Voices" programme, designed to illustrate Janacek's second string quartet with dramatized readings from memoirs, correspondence and other documentary sources. It looks like the sort of thing that would be much better done on radio and though the Janacek Quartet was written as a sequence of "Intimate Letters" (its sub-title) to Kamila Stosslova, the young object of his elderly passion, though it is thus an intensely autobiographical work, that fact does not make it at all dependent on any knowledge of the circumstances. One might well argue, rather, that Janacek so poured everything into his music that the documents add nothing.

Indeed, that does seem to have been the case, but curiously it did not destroy the purpose of this programme, which was able to show the right mix of strenuousness and simplicity, the right keen edge of personal anguish sounding through the collective jollities of folk dance.

said: one merely got the impression of a young wife and mother, perhaps embarrassed and perhaps amused by the old gentleman's attentions. For Janacek, so it seemed, she was truly not a person but the muse he needed to discover within himself the great works of his last dozen years. And nothing else, his quite appalling treatment of his wife, who emerged as the real heroine of the evening, might indicate how self-centred his motivation was.

The picture of impatient, impetuous, self-willed genius was well presented in Richard Pasco's readings, while Barbara Leigh-Hunt nicely counterpointed his servile reactions, sometimes wry, sometimes wry. The programme was compiled by Patrick Lambert and directed by John Caird.

Musically, we were in the hands of the Medici Quartet, who provided illustrations in costume and documentary first half and then, after the interval, gave us the real Janacek in a complete performance of his quartet. There was some slightly wild tuning in the first movement, but then there had the right mix of strenuousness and simplicity, the right keen edge of personal anguish sounding through the collective jollities of folk dance.

The South Bank Show LWT

Joan Bakewell

Children and lovers say what they feel and strive to express what they are feeling. In *Sons and Lovers*, Paul and Gertrude Morel are doing the former with some success. In *The Tresspasser*, Siegmund and Helena do the latter with considerable strain.

Translating the intense, verbose world of D. H. Lawrence to the screen is best done when the work is full of events, even the modest domestic events of the Morel household. *The Tresspasser*, an independent film commissioned by *The South Bank Show*, is about a love affair, taken from an early short story about a violinist who runs away with a pupil for a turbulent five days and, on return to his family, commits suicide.

Its external events are the outward show of the story's true power, which is the in-

ward turmoil of lovers and the complex interplay of their passion. In adapting the story Hugh Steward has made effective use of "voice over" technique, the whispering of inner thoughts, while Colin Gregg, the director, creates a lyrical beauty of figures in costume moving within a summer landscape.

But it is not altogether successful. While Mr Lawrence's observation is perceptive, his writing is high key, florid, overblown. I really have heard "Don't steer me on to the rocks of your platitudes" and actors striving bravely with "... the opium of her lips," or "the thrill of his gaze?"

Lovers certainly use highly charged language but observed on film from the outside, as with the scenes of their actual love making, the experience is excluding, occasionally ridiculous. One was grateful for the silences, which were, in fact, full of rich sounds—the squeak of shoes, the roar of the sea or pebbles in the drizzle of rain. Many such sequences were beautiful and moving.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

Maggie Smith: moving closer to Bloomsbury

Maggie Smith is home again. After four years in Stratford, Ontario, during which seasons she collected more glowing reviews from visiting British drama critics than she'd ever enjoyed when resident in London, she is now back in the West End in the first new role she's created in a decade, the only new play she ever did in Canada and the only one she's ever brought back to England. It is of course Edna O'Brien's *Woolf* biography *Virginia*, which opens at the Theatre Royal Haymarket, new Theatre day with its original Ontario cast, under the direction of Robin Phillips, who has also just cut his ties to that Canadian Stratford.

Originally the plan was for Virginia to play the Haymarket in repertoire with the Peter Ustinov *Leah*; in the chaos surrounding the Phillips departure from Ontario (to be replaced by a gang-of-four local management who have themselves now been replaced without ever managing a single season) that plan was abandoned, and Miss Smith will now be giving her *Virginia* nightly until the end of April, though there will, in reference to the size of the role, be no matinees.

"I suppose in one way it is rather feeble, I mean people often managed to play *Hamlet* twice daily, but matinees are so awful now, you don't even seem to get a decent cup of tea, and I really don't think I could play a role like this eight times a week even for three months without cracking up in Canada it was always in repertoire last summer."

But apart from the declining standards of matinee teas, England looks to Miss Smith much as she left it: she has of course been back in the meantime, last year briefly to replace Diana Rigg in *Stoppard's Night and Day* before taking it on to Broadway, and then in between Ontario seasons returning to the house she and her husband (the dramatist Beverly Cross) and the two sons of her marriage to Robert Stephens still share with her brother and sister-in-law in Surrey.



Photograph by Zoe Dornick

selves up with their cash registers instead of standing by the pump; my windscreen wipers broke on the A3 last night and all I could find were men locked into little glass booths." So what else is new? "Well, Virginia mainly. I've wanted to play her for about ten years, ever since I began reading the Quentin Bell biography while I was on location for *Travels with My Aunt*. The director of that film, George Cukor, thought we should do it as a movie but somehow there never seemed to be a script. Last year, when Edna O'Brien sent her play to Ken Tynan and asked who she should get for it, and Ken told her to try me, I was on Broadway, falling gently in *Night and Day* which nobody seemed to understand; it wasn't enough to have a hit on Broadway, you have to have a smash hit, and what I certainly didn't have that. Anyway I'd already signed for another season with Robin in Ontario, so I sent him the script and he loved it, too, and that was how we came to do it here.

"In some ways it was easier out there; when you talked about Bloomsbury you had to conjure it up in the imagination instead of having it just around the corner, but there weren't so many people who knew what the audiences seemed to be expecting an episode of *The Virginian* and others thought they were getting Edward Albee, but they were very respectful. Here I think audiences may be tougher, because we're on Virginia's home ground. Also, longer have the family of Stratford, Ontario, and that

repertoire around us; we're just another commercial West End run, and that's always more terrifying. I really did love being in a permanent company and, and of course I'd join a company here if the right sort of offer came along. It is just so much easier working with the same team of people from play to play, and for me Stratford, Ontario, was like starting out all over again. I'd come to the end of my first marriage, and was giving a terrible performance in *Private Lives*, and everyone was writing about Maggie Smith's mannerisms and there suddenly thanks to Robin, was the chance to start out in a quite different country with a whole new team of people who weren't fed up with me, doing work that I was just never offered at home. It was a wonderful feeling and very exciting, and I think it meant I was able to risk things as an actress, to go off in new directions. I was lucky to get Stratford, Ontario, and Robin at that moment, but four years is a long time in any company however good or enjoyable. I couldn't have stayed there forever."

A two-time Oscar winner, Maggie Smith did manage also to keep a film career going in the winter breaks from Stratford, and as well as *Quartet* she will also be seen playing Thetis in *Clash of the Titans*, a special-effects epic written by her husband for MGM.

"There we all are, me and Larry and Claire Bloom and Sian Phillips on top of Mount Olympus trudging around in white robes and a lot of dry ice. I can't wait to see it." But after the Virginia limited season and the Agatha Christie, what then?

"But as a result I've done lamentably few plays by living dramatists; indeed Beverly always annoys me by being a living dramatist. Somehow I always expect writers to be dead. Like Virginia."

Sheridan Morley

Book review

David O. Selznick's Hollywood

By Ronald Haver

(Secker & Warburg, £27.50)

Gone Hollywood

By Christopher Finch and Linda Rosenkrantz

(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £8.95)

David O. Selznick, the Hollywood producer who generated, among other films, *Gone With the Wind* and *King Kong*, is best remembered for his commercial nose, his brash extravagance, his single-mindedness, and a certain literary pretension. The same might be said of this lavish record of his career. It is not a biography of Selznick, nor is it an appraisal of his films. It is yet another history of Hollywood hung around a single figure.

Selznick is a fair person to have chosen for the purpose. Born into a show business family, he married Louis B. Mayer's daughter, worked for nearly all the major studios and, in 1935, started on a highly successful series of independent productions. With Darryl F. Zanuck and Irving Thalberg, he is one of the few Hollywood money men to elevate the role of producer to an art.

For Ronald Haver, Selznick is not simply a historic figure whose life would make an enjoyable read. The world of David Selznick has become the subject of a passion of dubious health. Haver's obsession with him became all-engrossing and this absurd book is a testament to that childhood craze which grew into something approaching a religious quest.

The empty and spiritually unattached Haver was first attracted towards the light of David O. Selznick when, during a long illness and confinement to bed, his mother encouraged him to read Margaret Mitchell's *Gone With the Wind*. Haver found it "the most engrossing piece of fiction I have ever read, light years ahead of the Hardy Boys and *Treasure Island*". He disco-

vered that a film had been made and, in 1934, began what was to be a lifelong devotion. By the time he had completed his book he had watched the film 119 times.

After the first few screenings, Haver began to worry about how the film had been made. "I was curious to know where there were differences between the book and the film." His search led eventually to David O. Selznick, a person he had heard of around Los Angeles, eavesdropping on him in cinemas, turning up at his home late at night, demanding that Selznick give him a job. When Selznick died, Haver worried the mogul's friends and family and compiled a file on the dead man which became this book.

It is a scrapbook of Selznick, a pastiche of newspaper cuttings about his marriages and divorce to the notes sent to him by actors. Among the many fine photographs of stars, sets and celebrities from old Hollywood there are such forgotten pieces of trivia as the copper-printed promotional leaflet from the *King Kong* launch and pictures showing the difference between title sequences of *Gone With the Wind*. It is bafflingly good mad, a crazy, extravagant record of a compulsion to compile which landed, by chance, on the life of David Selznick. While applauding the industry and the standards of perfection, there is something about the sinister devotion of it all which obtrudes. Like a Selznick film, Haver's vulgar elaboration has got in the way of a good story.

More telling about the grit, rather than the gloss, of Hollywood is Linda Rosenkrantz and Christopher Finch's collection of facts and figures about life in the film colony. There are short essays on such rarely discussed subjects as *peppercorn* (the word for a hired terror called Zorro who bit, first and barked later), divorce (Esther Muir divorced Busby Berkeley for tearing her dress off at a dance), gifts (John Barrymore's friends sent him a cellophane wrapped naked girl for his 55th birthday), and children (Joan Crawford used to tie her adopted son to the four corners of his bed to stop him sucking his thumb).

Nicholas Wapshott

Indian Classical Music Queen Elizabeth Hall

Yasmin Hosain

The string trio playing to a meagre audience of Asian families and hirsute orientalists consisted of Manish Chandra (sitar), Ken Zuckerman (sardar) and Amrit Gajjar (dhrubha). While the tenuousness of the music was clearly in the background, the accompanist Indra Dhanu beat the tabla with alarming enthusiasm. This and the introductory eulogy placed a heavy burden on the frail shoulders of the American Zuckerman.

He is a disciple of Ali Akbar Khan, and teaches at the Basel Music Academy. The sardar has similarities with cello and guitar: seven of the 25 strings are played, the rest provide sympathetic vibrations, and there are no frets. Zuckerman opened with *Raga Durga* in reental (16 beats). The dignified alap (introduction) was played with quiet confidence reminiscent of the master. The harmony of the lower scale was lost as he progressed to the higher notes and the gat became too metallic as he struggled to keep time with the raga tabla. A green room reprieve was evident in the chastened and improved performance of the teenage percussionist after the interval.

The sitar solo in *Ragini Bhimpalasi* was presented in the traditional style by Manish Chandra, alap, jor and jhala. With precise deliberation he evoked the gentle cajoling so typical of this romantic raga. The wadi (main note) was established with pleasing clarity. In India *Bhimpalasi* is a great favourite, and to play it is a tribute to the rhythmic restraint of the tabla is risking sentimentality. Manish performed with perfect control.

The dhrubha is a variation of the sarangi, and easier to play since it has frets; it has four

main strings, and is played with a bow. The rich plaintive sound of this rarely used instrument is almost as expressive as the human voice. Amrit Gajjar, who was trained in Uganda, is a versatile and sensitive performer. He presented and developed the *Jaijanti* in the form of a khayal (vocal composition), starting with the complete octave, and then halting on each note with insistent lyricism. Some faltering and false tones marred the sequence as tabla and dhrubha attempted to synchronise in the drut (fast tempo), but it was an interesting and touching portrayal of the longing desire embodied in *Jaijanti*.

SPORT

Golf

Graham takes top prize but the gallery belongs to Palmer

From John Hopkins
Phoenix, Arizona, Jan 26

The Phoenix Open golf tournament, which finished just after lunch on a blessedly hot and clear Sunday afternoon, was won by David Graham, an Australian who now lives in Dallas.

It was in many ways, typical of tournaments on the American golf circuit, which started two weeks ago and will run, week in and week out, until the end of October. There was a huge prize money of \$21,000, the tournament attracted over 50 of the top 60 money winners from last year's tour, and the winner, Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino were missing.

Graham won, narrowly, on his first appearance at the event in a half-filled gallery, and in a storm of sub-par rounds. It was 15 under par as he moved to the lead on the 24th hole, and it was there that he heard that Lee Trevino had had an eagle at the hole to move onto 13 under par.

Graham drove to the left, hit a slice one from well away from the lake that lurks on the right-hand side of this hole and then, out as a cucumber, chipped to four feet and holed the putt. Graham's four rounds on the 25th hole were 1, 2, 3, and 4, while Trevino's were 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Graham may have won the first prize but, typically, there was at least one injured last round and Graham took the second prize. It was Trevino this time, but it could have been Johnnie Walker, who turned in the second round, topped and tailed by cards on the first and 15th holes. There were 10 strokes between Hinkle's first and last round.

Armed Palmer played and lasted through the four rounds. He is still here, his face tanned to a walnut colour, his hair almost completely grey. The galleries always include the prettiest looking girls, the richest-looking men and the most famous and famous.

Armed Palmer played and lasted through the four rounds. He is still here, his face tanned to a walnut colour, his hair almost completely grey. The galleries always include the prettiest looking girls, the richest-looking men and the most famous and famous.

Nick Faldo, the tall Englishman, was paired with Palmer on Sunday. Faldo had played steadily in his first tournament of the year and had beaten his contemporary, Sandy Lyle, who had only arrived a week earlier, and Peter Dinklage, who lives over here, in the second round by one stroke and finished the tournament in 7th position, out of 58. He won £220.

More importantly, by making the cut, he secured automatic entry into the next tournament, the Bing Crosby event at Pebble Beach, the home of the PGA. Faldo had not done so well in the world tour, but he had won the second of the three exemptions he is entitled to as a Ryder Cup player. He did not win the tournament by a long way.

Lyle, who moved the cut by one stroke, will win his second consecutive tournament. He had won the first round, but he did at Phoenix, where, in his second round, he had a black flag. In the end, he was in the last four holes. Both Lyle and Faldo had been made aware that the hole was real and that they had to be good enough for him to survive the coming weeks.



David Graham holes the winning putt at Phoenix

FINAL SCORES (18 holes under 180): Graham, 66, 67, 68, 69, 270; Trevino, 67, 68, 69, 70, 274; Nick Faldo, 68, 69, 70, 71, 278; Sandy Lyle, 69, 70, 71, 72, 282; Peter Dinklage, 70, 71, 72, 73, 286; Johnnie Walker, 71, 72, 73, 74, 290; Lee Trevino, 72, 73, 74, 75, 294; Jack Nicklaus, 73, 74, 75, 76, 298; Arnold Palmer, 74, 75, 76, 77, 302; Tom Watson, 75, 76, 77, 78, 306; Billy Casper, 76, 77, 78, 79, 310; Gary Player, 77, 78, 79, 80, 314; Fuzzy Zerkow, 78, 79, 80, 81, 318; Tom Weir, 79, 80, 81, 82, 322; Billy Casper, 80, 81, 82, 83, 326; Gary Player, 81, 82, 83, 84, 330; Fuzzy Zerkow, 82, 83, 84, 85, 334; Tom Weir, 83, 84, 85, 86, 338; Billy Casper, 84, 85, 86, 87, 342; Gary Player, 85, 86, 87, 88, 346; Fuzzy Zerkow, 86, 87, 88, 89, 350; Tom Weir, 87, 88, 89, 90, 354; Billy Casper, 88, 89, 90, 91, 358; Gary Player, 89, 90, 91, 92, 362; Fuzzy Zerkow, 90, 91, 92, 93, 366; Tom Weir, 91, 92, 93, 94, 370; Billy Casper, 92, 93, 94, 95, 374; Gary Player, 93, 94, 95, 96, 378; Fuzzy Zerkow, 94, 95, 96, 97, 382; Tom Weir, 95, 96, 97, 98, 386; Billy Casper, 96, 97, 98, 99, 390; Gary Player, 97, 98, 99, 100, 394; Fuzzy Zerkow, 98, 99, 100, 101, 398; Tom Weir, 99, 100, 101, 102, 402; Billy Casper, 100, 101, 102, 103, 406; Gary Player, 101, 102, 103, 104, 410; Fuzzy Zerkow, 102, 103, 104, 105, 414; Tom Weir, 103, 104, 105, 106, 418; Billy Casper, 104, 105, 106, 107, 422; Gary Player, 105, 106, 107, 108, 426; Fuzzy Zerkow, 106, 107, 108, 109, 430; Tom Weir, 107, 108, 109, 110, 434; Billy Casper, 108, 109, 110, 111, 438; Gary Player, 109, 110, 111, 112, 442; Fuzzy Zerkow, 110, 111, 112, 113, 446; Tom Weir, 111, 112, 113, 114, 450; Billy Casper, 112, 113, 114, 115, 454; Gary Player, 113, 114, 115, 116, 458; Fuzzy Zerkow, 114, 115, 116, 117, 462; Tom Weir, 115, 116, 117, 118, 466; Billy Casper, 116, 117, 118, 119, 470; Gary Player, 117, 118, 119, 120, 474; Fuzzy Zerkow, 118, 119, 120, 121, 478; Tom Weir, 119, 120, 121, 122, 482; Billy Casper, 120, 121, 122, 123, 486; Gary Player, 121, 122, 123, 124, 490; Fuzzy Zerkow, 122, 123, 124, 125, 494; Tom Weir, 123, 124, 125, 126, 498; Billy Casper, 124, 125, 126, 127, 502; Gary Player, 125, 126, 127, 128, 506; Fuzzy Zerkow, 126, 127, 128, 129, 510; Tom Weir, 127, 128, 129, 130, 514; Billy Casper, 128, 129, 130, 131, 518; Gary Player, 129, 130, 131, 132, 522; Fuzzy Zerkow, 130, 131, 132, 133, 526; Tom Weir, 131, 132, 133, 134, 530; Billy Casper, 132, 133, 134, 135, 534; Gary Player, 133, 134, 135, 136, 538; Fuzzy Zerkow, 134, 135, 136, 137, 542; Tom Weir, 135, 136, 137, 138, 546; Billy Casper, 136, 137, 138, 139, 550; Gary Player, 137, 138, 139, 140, 554; Fuzzy Zerkow, 138, 139, 140, 141, 558; Tom Weir, 139, 140, 141, 142, 562; Billy Casper, 140, 141, 142, 143, 566; Gary Player, 141, 142, 143, 144, 570; Fuzzy Zerkow, 142, 143, 144, 145, 574; Tom Weir, 143, 144, 145, 146, 578; Billy Casper, 144, 145, 146, 147, 582; Gary Player, 145, 146, 147, 148, 586; Fuzzy Zerkow, 146, 147, 148, 149, 590; Tom Weir, 147, 148, 149, 150, 594; Billy Casper, 148, 149, 150, 151, 598; Gary Player, 149, 150, 151, 152, 602; Fuzzy Zerkow, 150, 151, 152, 153, 606; Tom Weir, 151, 152, 153, 154, 610; Billy Casper, 152, 153, 154, 155, 614; Gary Player, 153, 154, 155, 156, 618; Fuzzy Zerkow, 154, 155, 156, 157, 622; Tom Weir, 155, 156, 157, 158, 626; Billy Casper, 156, 157, 158, 159, 630; Gary Player, 157, 158, 159, 160, 634; Fuzzy Zerkow, 158, 159, 160, 161, 638; Tom Weir, 159, 160, 161, 162, 642; Billy Casper, 160, 161, 162, 163, 646; Gary Player, 161, 162, 163, 164, 650; Fuzzy Zerkow, 162, 163, 164, 165, 654; Tom Weir, 163, 164, 165, 166, 658; Billy Casper, 164, 165, 166, 167, 662; Gary Player, 165, 166, 167, 168, 666; Fuzzy Zerkow, 166, 167, 168, 169, 670; Tom Weir, 167, 168, 169, 170, 674; Billy Casper, 168, 169, 170, 171, 678; Gary Player, 169, 170, 171, 172, 682; Fuzzy Zerkow, 170, 171, 172, 173, 686; Tom Weir, 171, 172, 173, 174, 690; Billy Casper, 172, 173, 174, 175, 694; Gary Player, 173, 174, 175, 176, 698; Fuzzy Zerkow, 174, 175, 176, 177, 702; Tom Weir, 175, 176, 177, 178, 706; Billy Casper, 176, 177, 178, 179, 710; Gary Player, 177, 178, 179, 180, 714; Fuzzy Zerkow, 178, 179, 180, 181, 718; Tom Weir, 179, 180, 181, 182, 722; Billy Casper, 180, 181, 182, 183, 726; Gary Player, 181, 182, 183, 184, 730; Fuzzy Zerkow, 182, 183, 184, 185, 734; Tom Weir, 183, 184, 185, 186, 738; Billy Casper, 184, 185, 186, 187, 742; Gary Player, 185, 186, 187, 188, 746; Fuzzy Zerkow, 186, 187, 188, 189, 750; Tom Weir, 187, 188, 189, 190, 754; Billy Casper, 188, 189, 190, 191, 758; Gary Player, 189, 190, 191, 192, 762; Fuzzy Zerkow, 190, 191, 192, 193, 766; Tom Weir, 191, 192, 193, 194, 770; Billy Casper, 192, 193, 194, 195, 774; Gary Player, 193, 194, 195, 196, 778; Fuzzy Zerkow, 194, 195, 196, 197, 782; Tom Weir, 195, 196, 197, 198, 786; Billy Casper, 196, 197, 198, 199, 790; Gary Player, 197, 198, 199, 200, 794; Fuzzy Zerkow, 198, 199, 200, 201, 798; Tom Weir, 199, 200, 201, 202, 802; Billy Casper, 200, 201, 202, 203, 806; Gary Player, 201, 202, 203, 204, 810; Fuzzy Zerkow, 202, 203, 204, 205, 814; 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How Mao's widow found herself friendless in the dock...

The callous revolutionary who lusted for power

There are good reasons to believe she hated men because she and her mother were maltreated by her father, and because, as a young actress in Shanghai, she was exposed to lewd male gossip...

Peking Jiang Qing, the widow of Mao Tse Tung, who may never be seen in public again, had a gift for making enemies. Arrogant and opinionated, even on subjects of which she knew little, she systematically destroyed China's intellectual and cultural life for more than a decade. This is not in itself a capital offence. But she was also indicted for having caused or countenanced the persecution and execution of thousands of people in one purge alone, it is alleged, 3,000 people died.

It is difficult to know how seriously to take the complex political charges against Jiang Qing. All Chinese political declarations have an element of exaggeration. But her own behaviour in court, before the eyes of millions of television viewers, certainly gave the impression of a choleric and vindictive woman.

Almost as though deliberately, Mao's widow touched on all the misogynous prejudices which linger on in China—not least among the women, whose propensity for mutual spite is second to none.

Ironically, it was a woman—and a feminist—who unintentionally presented to the world the most damaging picture of Jiang Qing. Dr Roxane Witke, an American scholar, interviewed her at length in 1972, but the interviews, in book form, were not published until after her subject had been overthrown in 1976.

Dr Witke's portrait of Jiang Qing is marred by its dearth of direct quotations and discursive backgrounding. But although Dr Witke seemed to admire Jiang Qing, she took pains to show a strange blend of hypochondria, histrionics, jealousy, self-indulgence and vulgarity masquerading as elegance.

With Dr Witke's book (*Com-*

rade Chiang Ching) at their elbow, few writers on Chinese affairs found it hard to believe why she was so hated. There are good reasons to believe she hated men because she and her mother were maltreated by her father, and because, as a young actress in Shanghai, she was exposed to lewd male gossip. It may be no coincidence that in Mao—as testified by people who knew him before the War—she found a certain effeminacy more to her liking than the more macho-inclined officers of the Red Army.

Certainly, around the time when Dr Witke met her, she surrounded herself with female attendants—two of whom turned out to denounce her at the trial.

Apparently, she genuinely believed she was a born revolutionary, though her tastes were incurably petty bourgeois and her military role was mainly imaginary. From the time she married Mao about 1940, until the mid 1960s, she more or less adhered to the promise extracted by Mao's comrades before the marriage: that she would never interfere in politics. It is a moot point whether her increasing involvement in stage, cinema and operatic work in the 1950s and 60s really constituted such interference. In view of the appalling condition to which she consigned China's modern cultural life from 1960

on, the party elders might feel they would have done better to ban her from that kind of activity, rather than from politics. She has had a long-standing hatred of the elegant Mme Wang Guangmei, wife of Liu Shaoqi, who was head of state until his overthrow and death in prison. Mme Wang is back in circulation again, and it would be not entirely surprising, given the Chinese appreciation of irony, if Jiang Qing had been assigned to the same solitary cell she occupied in the Quincheng maximum security prison near Peking. Though not beautiful in middle age, her cheeks became puffy and drooped, disguising the pretentiousness of her youth—Jiang Qing exuded sex in a way some women in their 60s can. She was full of mannerisms, and often affected a prancing gait. After the khaki-cup-and-trousers period of the early cultural revolution, she took to wearing long black dresses.

She tried, it is alleged, to suppress the national costumes of China's minorities—Mongols, Tibetans and others. And she devised a summer dress for the women of Peking, who, unlike their counterparts in Shanghai, were mostly too cautious to wear it. It is with Jiang Qing's departure from the fashion design scene that women all over the country now dare to wear smart dresses and above-

the-knee skirts in warm weather.

What of her "reform" of the Chinese opera? A few of the "new works" approved for general showing in the cultural revolution contained exciting dances and acrobatics, and the oddly scrawled singing of Peking opera was retained, even in the dramatization of modern or revolutionary themes.

But Peking opera is nothing without the fantastic costumes and make-up, the extravagant gestures, and the revealing plain human situations only vaguely related to politics—and few people here are mourning the departure of *The Red Lantern* or *The Red Detachment of Women*.

Perhaps the most unattractive aspect of Jiang Qing's personality was her callousness—an attribute she shared with Mao. Ruined lives, suicides and family grief seemed to mean nothing to her once she was embarked on her witch-hunt of "reactionaries" and "rightists". Obviously she was taking her revenge for something, whether her father's brutality, or the cold shoulder she was given by party veterans, is not clear.

When Jiang Qing dared the special court to execute her in public, she may even have been serious. For a person of her temperament, prison life may be a worse fate than death. Nobody seriously expects her to be executed in two years' time on grounds of failure to "repent". The question arises whether Chinese society as at present constituted, could tolerate any woman in as high a position as she eventually gained. Jiang Qing is a living reminder of the high hopes of the feminist movement in the early Kuomintang period. The vast majority of working women today are labourers, shop



Drawing by Richard Cole

Chou en-Lai's widow. But the only other woman in that august body is Chen Muhua, a foreign aid specialist who has never risen far and has been under political attack.

The proportion of women members in the Central Committee and the National People's Congress is tiny. Mme Soon, Chiang-Ling nonagenarian widow of Sun Yat-sen, is a living reminder of the high hopes of the feminist movement in the early Kuomintang period. The vast majority of working women today are labourers, shop

Bernard Levin

They're very big in Limehouse



Four across the Rubicon: Mr Rodgers, Mrs Williams, Mr Jenkins and Dr Owen.

disturbing tendencies have been observed in the drift of Labour Party policy. You will not believe me—you will think I am riddled through the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations until I found something appropriate—but I swear that as I heard the news of this historic, nay momentous, decision, there came unbidden to my mind the great rallying-call ("Once more out of the breach") of Henry V.

In peace there's nothing so becomes a man, As modest stillness and humility; But when the blast of war blows in our ears, Then imitate the action of the tiger. Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood, And have a jolly good discussion on what we should do if they should go too far. Without, of course, forgetting to The shocking price that claret's fetching now. Because of all the bloody Japanese. But what this dauntless band have done so far is as nothing to what they intend for the future. Once again, Jack ("Scoops") Levin has beaten all his rivals: the moment I heard that the vital meeting was taking place chez Owen I hastened thither disguised as a TV repairman, come to fix the aerial. Once on the roof, it was a work of a moment to slip down the chimney and, wedged only a few feet above the

fireplace, to hear all that transpired. Thus, I am in a position to reveal that contingency plans have been laid, for almost any eventuality. For instance, it was unanimously and enthusiastically agreed that if the Labour Party manifesto for the next election should include a proposal for Britain to leave Nato, the group would take steps, and if the manifesto should go even further and promise that a Labour Government, after leaving Nato, should then join the Warsaw Pact, they would have a thing or two to say about it.

Nor was that all; indeed, that was trivial to what came after. Even as the words were spoken I wrote them down—I still have the sort of tiny notebook to prove it—and I can now disclose that should a Labour prime minister appoint Mr. Ernie Roberts, Minister of Defence, Mrs. Renee Short Foreign Secretary and Mr. Alex. Nison Ambassador to the United States, the members of the Alliance for Social Democracy will, almost before a month is out, consider their pact. More if a plan for the nationalisation, without compensation, of all private property should be put forward in the manifesto, they would regret its inclusion, and if a Labour government, elected on such a platform, should announce that it intended to put the plan into effect, they would urgently request the government to think again.

And even that does not exhaust the roll-call of courageous stands, I

nearly fell into the drawing-room with excitement and admiration when I heard the group agree, new comers that if a future Labour government should bring in legislation to censor the press, they would find it difficult, if not impossible, to see any merit in the plan.

By now the group had thrown away their scarves and passed (I think the striking phrase was Dr Owen's) the "point of no return". For not content with the ringing declarations of principle I have so far recorded, they drew up plans for swift and effective action as well. If legislation providing for imprisonment without trial were to be introduced by a Labour government, for instance, they would make a stink about it, and if that were followed by a further Bill seeking powers for the government to suspend Parliament indefinitely and rule by decree they are pledged to work with others in opposition to the measure. The abolition of the House of Lords would be deplored; that of the monarchy criticised outright; and that of freedom of worship firmly rebuffed.

A long and scintillating discussion then followed in which the group hammered out an agreement on general terms. The argument was eventually narrowed down to two choices; should they be, at an election, concerned observers of anxious spectators? "Yes," said I. I was convinced that no agreement would

be possible, so strongly held (and evenly balanced) were the rival views. But then the wise and moderating influence of Mr. Jenkins made itself felt, and the whole group eagerly embraced his suggestion that in the event of an election they should declare that they were giving the outcome with more than ordinary interest.

And so it went on, all through the afternoon, while I, the discomfort of my position forgotten in the feeling that I was present at history in the making, filled notebook after notebook (I had stuffed every pocket full of spares) with the astounding decisions being made in my hearing.

The group pledged themselves, in the event of a Labour government insisting on compulsory education in Marxism for all five-year-old school children, to disagree; the replacement of the present Chiefs of Staff by leading members of the Militant Tendency would be vigorously denounced; the advent of a one-party state would be declared a black day for Britain.

My deadline was approaching; I realized that it would be the height of irony if, in waiting to see what else would transpire at this historic encounter, I failed to get into the paper what I had already discovered. So, with great reluctance, I climbed up the chimney to the roof again, slid down a rainwater-pipe and hastened off to be, once more, first with the news. But as it happens, I think I must have left just as the meeting was about to end, for the last sound I heard coming from the house as I began my dash to the office was that of music: taking a leaf out of the book of the left, with its custom of singing *The Red Flag*, the fearless group who had already so notably lashed out for democracy were concluding a fine day's work with a spirited rendering of that haunting Lennon/McCartney number *He's a Real Gone Man*.

Sitting in his *Nowhere Land*, Making all his nowhere plans for nobody.

Doesn't have a point of view, Knows not where he's going to, Can't be a bit like you and me?

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The battle hotting up over who is 'British'

Today, for the third time this century, the House of Commons will grapple with the fundamental question of what it means to be British. This time there will be a real battle between the two major parties.

The Government's Nationality Bill, which will replace the 1948 Act, has angered many people of widely differing views because, effectively, it puts British citizenship on a racial basis.

The Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, the ethnic minority groups, including the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the civil liberties lobby say the Bill is racist and will create more, not less, uncertainty.

One of the Bill's most outspoken critics, the born-again Labour Party which has decided under the leadership of Mr Roy Matherley, home affairs spokesman, to end the consensus that once existed on this issue, also says the Bill is sexist.

Such criticisms it must be said, marks something of a conversion for Labour—perhaps the result of being safely in opposition again. The previous government would almost certainly have steered through a Bill to create a second class of British citizenship, if the Green Paper of 1977 is anything to go by, which would have left large numbers of mainly non-white people effectively stateless.

Labour's record on immigration has been almost identical to the Conservatives. It introduced stringent controls and reneged on Britain's commitment to the East African Asians who had United Kingdom passports. Only a small number were allowed here. However, the party may well be changing its tune, and the fact that Mr Matherley is prepared to say he regrets having voted for the 1968 Immigration Act is a positive sign.

Today the Opposition will be going all out against the Government's proposals in the Second Reading debate. And in March Labour activists and others will take to the streets to demonstrate against the Bill.

Critics say the Bill incorporates racial discrimination restrictions, introduced when the sun was setting on the British empire, into nationality law. Henceforth whether someone can live in this country and on what conditions will depend on his or her citizenship category. The three new categories of citizenship are largely but not wholly racial. Only (mainly white) British citizens will have a right to live here. The other two groups (British Overseas Citizens and Citizens of the British Dependent Territories) will have no right of entry. They include those in East Africa and Malaysia who chose to be British at independence, and the present inhabitants of colonies like Hong Kong.

So why call these people British at all? Why give them "British" passports which they cannot use to enter this country?

The whole question of rights to vote and to hold public office which normally go with citizenship is virtually ignored in the Bill, even for British citizens. A passport can be withheld on government discretion. The Government's White Paper on the subject referred to such rights as "privileges". This has been criticized for being one of the most depressing

Labour's record on immigration has been almost identical to the Conservatives—it introduced stringent controls and reneged on Britain's commitment to the East African Asians who had United Kingdom passports...

naturalization may not pass on their citizenship automatically to their children who are born outside the United Kingdom. Now they can. The new provision will catch mainly non-white people.

There are, nevertheless, some good things in the Bill. First, it allows dual nationality about which Labour's Green Paper was ambivalent; second, it ends the present sex discrimination whereby children born abroad can only inherit British nationality through their father and not their mother.

The Government appears likely to forestall the critics by pushing the Bill through as quickly as possible. Already it has rejected a request for committee hearings to which outsiders could give evidence. This is a pity. It may not be in its best interests to ignore the criticisms and anxieties in view of this country's European and international human rights commitments. It may be found wanting at a later date.

Lucy Hodges



Asian immigrants at Heathrow.

LONDON DIARY

It should be all Greek to you...

In a world in which the news fluctuates between chaos, catastrophe and a permanent state of crisis, at least one piece of good news can be chalked up to 1981: Greece has joined Europe.

Correction: that is an eccentric and hybris-like way of putting it. Greece originally was Europe, and the cow-girl Europa who hitched a lift on a passing bull to Crete and glory was a Greek myth.

The Greek roots of our own beloved English language stick out like old marble crags from the preceding paragraphs. As Greece has slipped almost unnoticed into the EEC, I thought we should celebrate her accession to the Nine, making them the Ten, with one of my celebrated and ever-popular competitions.

But there is a difference. This time, thanks to a burst of Aegean generosity, I am able to offer a prize so glittering that it smacks of the kind of readers' contest they run in one of the less expensive newspapers with which we may shortly have

some association. However the subject matter is distinctly up-market.

I invite idle readers to compose a suitable celebratory encomium on Greece's entry to the EEC using only English words derived from Greek.

For example, if you happen to be writing about monetarism (and who isn't these days?) you could say: It is Zeus's anathema on our epoch for the transgression of our economic and the heresy of our economic methods and policies that we should agonize between the Scylla of numismatic plethora and the Charybdis of economic anamias.

Two hundred words maximum, please, in prose or verse, and a blind eye will be turned on prepositions, articles and other nuts and bolts of English that are not directly derived from Greek. The winner will be the crafty Philhellene who submits the most amusing, engaging, inspiring and appropriate piece.

Now the good news. The first prize will be a week's holiday for two in Greece, with all expenses paid by Olympic Holidays, and I dare say introductions to Bacchus, Aphrodite and any other Olympians to taste.



Has the Inner London Education Authority introduced capital punishment in schools to replace the cane? John Harvey of Rushmore saw this sign on a door at Marlborough School, London SW3, where they appear to have serious problems of discipline.

The second prize will be a copy of L. R. Palmer's magisterial (and expensive) book *The Greek Language*.

The judges, whose decision will be final and no doubt controversial, after they have been tyrannized by so much hellenic phraseology, will be Sir David Hunt, Hellenophile extraordinary and master mind; Eleni Cubitt of the Greek Embassy; and my colleague Philip Howard, literary editor and senior classics master of The Times.

Entries to me by next Wednesday, February 4, please, and kindly mark them "Greek contest". I shall reveal the

winners and their work in this space on Shrove Tuesday, March 3.

Off the beam

Ardent admirers of the BBC's World Service radio programmes have formed an appreciation society to try to ensure that the broadcasts continue to be audible in Britain when a new transmitter to beam the service around the globe is erected on the Suffolk coast next year.

The World Service is really intended for foreigners, and is paid for out of the annual Foreign Office grant which maintains all the BBC external services from Bush House in the Strand. But the quality of its programmes, which are much less biased towards British news and views than the domestic radio services, has won it a substantial following in Britain. The BBC estimates a regular World Service audience of about 100,000 in this country; others claim that the figure is much higher, and is artificially depressed by the BBC to avoid embarrassing Radios One to Four.

At present the World Service (423 metres medium wave; details daily on our penultimate

page) is beamed from a transmitter at Crowthorne, Sussex, and can be heard loud and clear in most parts of Britain, particularly since the domestic radio "wavelengths" were switched about two years ago. But the BBC intends to boost its reception in distant parts by building a new directional transmitter at Oxford Ness, which will send most of the sound waves away from our own shores.

Work on the new transmitter will begin later this year, and the old one in Sussex will be closed down in 1982.

Jerry Lewis, a freelance journalist who has founded the World Service Appreciation Society, told me: "We hope it is not too late to persuade the BBC to change the design of their new transmitter, or to leave the old one in use."

"The World Service's mix of programmes is second to none, and its news coverage, especially foreign news, is the best. Its in-depth programmes on the news, like *Outlook*, *Analysis* and *Assignment*, cannot be bettered."

Nicholas Ridley, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, assured the Commons in 1979 that the World Service would



Greville Janner and James Dempsey. The BBC told me yesterday that they welcomed Lewis's interest, but they refused to commit themselves, except to claim that with the new transmitter the World Service would still be audible in the South-east, but signal further north would be of "adequate or lesser quality". Signals from the appreciation society are being beamed loud and clear towards the Strand.

Silly clots

A private member's Bill introduced by Sir Anthony Meyer, MP for West Flintshire, to amend our extraordinary complex shop hours legislation has turned the spotlight anew on the anomalies with which it is crammed, and excited a full-page advert in *The Times* last week.

Did you know, for example, that it is legal to sell cream on Sundays but not tinned cream unless the tinned cream is clotted? Surely, you might object, if clotted cream was subjected to the tanning process, it would no longer be clotted but ruined.

Quite right, the Dairy Trade Federation and Milk Marketing Board confirm, but the exemption was made to cover the sale of clotted cream in tins, as often happens in the West Country, to protect its passage through the post. Holiday-makers had to be allowed to buy clotted cream on Sundays to post to their friends.

Fine, and of course the scheduled to Shops Act do also specifically permit the transaction of post office business on Sundays. But there is, as far as is known, now only one Post Office which actually opens on Sundays, and that is in Trafalgar Square, London, which is not a likely source of clotted cream. Down in the fertile West Country Sunday post is a thing of the past.

Linguistic vandalism from Wolverhampton Council, which has changed the name of its anti-natalism committee to "the urban conservation and environmental awareness working party".

Alan Hamilton



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THE PRESSURE OF EVENTS

Sir Keith Joseph's statement on British Leyland is something of a milestone in the development of the Government's industrial policy. When it first came to office it held out the promise of a coherent and distinct strategy. There was to be a rapid end to subsidy of lame duck public enterprise. As much as possible of industry in the public sector was to be offered back to the private sector, a process for which the term privatization was coined. Meanwhile, the new growth in the economy was to come from the revitalized private sector itself, liberated from the disincentives of high personal taxation and from the restraints of dividend and foreign exchange controls.

In this as in other areas the Government has found that, even if the policy is right in principle, the problems which it is designed to attack are much more intractable than was at first supposed. The announcement of a further huge injection of public money into British Leyland yesterday, giving the company what it required to continue with its latest corporate plan, is evidence of that fact. Under the pressure of events, faced with rising unemployment, there was in the event no option but to provide the necessary finance to prevent the company having to cease trading.

There is an unhappy irony about the fact that it is Sir Keith

Joseph, one of the most intellectually rigorous of Mrs Thatcher's ministers, who is as a spending minister presiding over the most ad hoc and uncoordinated series of industrial rescue operations, all of them in straight contradiction of his originally professed industrial strategy. As it approaches the middle of its first term of office the Government in the light of experience might do well to reconsider its strategic goals in this important area of policy.

Such a reappraisal would have to start from the acceptance that the public sector will inevitably remain a substantial part of the British industrial economy for the foreseeable future. It is wrong to assume, as the Government and the Prime Minister herself tended to do at the start, that the public sector is incapable of behaving commercially and increasing its efficiency. Instead of mentally writing the whole of the public sector off as a bad job, industrial policy in this area should be a coordinated attempt to introduce and increase the pressures for a more commercially oriented development of the public sector industries.

In particular areas the breaking of the monopoly position of certain state industries could help here. So could the breaking up of giant businesses, like British Leyland or the British Steel Corporation into smaller

operating businesses. In this way it would in future be easier to run down hopeless loss-making operations and concentrate on areas of promise. The introduction of joint ventures between state industries and private enterprise should also be actively explored in this context. Financial performance targets should be set and monitored in order to measure improved performance and to restore to the management of state enterprises the sense of commercial purpose.

In general, the direct control of state owned industrial concerns should be kept at one remove from Whitehall. All the experience of the past twenty years and more is that civil servants are not the right people to take detailed and day-to-day industrial and financial decisions in a commercial context. Here the decision to remove the British Leyland shareholding from the National Enterprise Board and to transfer it to the Department of Industry, in the form of the transfer of the Government's shareholding in Rolls-Royce, is a step in the wrong direction. Increased commercial discipline should be the order of the day so far as the public sector is concerned, not more direct political and bureaucratic interference in the running of industries that in any event pose enough problems of their own.

WHAT FUTURE FOR THE SIXTH FORM?

By 1993 the number of young people who have passed the legal minimum school leaving age but are still under 20 will be smaller by a quarter than it is today. Sixth form provision will have to adapt to meet this change, as services for younger children are already doing. Because the sixth form is a more sensitive political issue, the prospect is already causing uncertainty and conflict among teachers and local councillors. The Macfarlane report, published yesterday, was intended to give policy makers a guide to which of the several possible courses would best suit their own circumstances. Unfortunately the political issues have proved so sensitive that the report, after a series of much-leaked drafting crises, reads more like one more summary of the problems than a guide to their resolution.

This is especially disappointing to the more extreme proponents of the two main rival answers—the traditional sixth form, on one side, and the sixth form college on the other. But while the report's failure to give clearer guidance must be regretted, it is no bad thing that it has not thrown its weight dogmatically on either side. It is clear that the problems faced in different areas are very diverse (some authorities even expect to have more students of sixth form age in ten years, not

fewer). Different areas will need different solutions, and will perceive the situation differently, and central government should not seek to prescribe in a rigid or doctrinaire fashion.

The fall in pupil numbers will make it impossible for many comprehensive schools to provide a sufficiently wide range of courses economically. The problem already exists: a good sixth form should have at least 140 pupils, but more than a third of existing ones are already smaller than 50. In cities, many schools have mitigated the effects of change by making informal arrangements to share sixth-form provision. This can work well in the short term, but the scale of the approaching change is so great that education authorities everywhere should be preparing long-term plans to adapt, and ensuring that they are widely known and debated.

The most popular radical solution is the separate sixth-form college. There are now 105 of them, and a recent survey showed that their A-level results are slightly better than those of ordinary sixth forms. They are popular with students, especially those who feel that they have outgrown school discipline, and there is evidence that students there move more readily on to further education. The release from discipline is not always an advantage, but in many areas,

especially large cities, sixth-form colleges will seem the natural answer.

Their effect on the "beheaded" comprehensive schools may not, however, be so good. The sense of community and continuity in these schools may be weakened, and the Inspectors of Schools have noted a tendency for them to suffer their own difficulties about presenting a broad curriculum and attracting specialist teachers, who prefer to have some work with sixth formers. The same might be true if schools were "beheaded" so that one or two others in the neighbourhood could enjoy a sixth form.

In general, as many schools as possible should be enabled to maintain their own sixth-form provision, with formal sharing arrangements where necessary. The Government should try again soon to assist education authorities to identify where this should be attempted. The whole debate should take place in the light of the fact that education after the age of sixteen in Britain is no matter for complacency. Fewer young people here than in most comparable countries continue their studies beyond sixteen, and the effects of this on our national competitiveness must be significant. The problem must be approached not only in terms of maintaining standards, but also of improving them.

THE CHALLENGE TO PRESIDENT GISCARD

M. Mitterrand looks better placed to win the French presidential election than he did only a few months ago. He has succeeded in overcoming the divisions within his own Socialist Party, so that last Saturday's meeting, at which he was formally adopted as his party's sole candidate, was an impressive display of unity. At the same time recent opinion polls have shown him closing the gap between himself and President Giscard d'Estaing—still not officially a candidate, but generally expected to be one. One poll, taken earlier this month, even had Mitterrand ahead of Giscard by 51 per cent to 49 per cent. Since then the same poll has shown Mitterrand pulling ahead again, with 52 per cent to Mitterrand's 48 per cent; but even so that is a significantly smaller margin than the 60 per cent showing for Mitterrand that he was getting last autumn, and suggests that the election, to be held on April 26 and May 10, could go either way.

The surprising thing is not that President Giscard should appear to be vulnerable, but that he should have appeared so strong for so long. He will, after all, have been in office for seven years and, though the French standard of living has risen during that time, the economy has run into difficulties over the past year or two. Unemployment is

up to one and a half million, and inflation was 13.6 per cent last year. There have also been a number of scandals, not least the allegation that M. Giscard had himself been given diamonds by the Emperor Bokassa of the Central African Empire. Even so, the assumption until recently was that he would be reelected quite easily. He still may. He is likely to attract more support once he has launched his own campaign. He will have enormous advantages as the incumbent, and many French voters may hesitate at the last moment at the thought of electing a President from the left.

Much will depend on the attitude of the Communist Party. In the last presidential election, in 1974, M. Mitterrand was the joint candidate of the Socialist and Communist Parties—and came very near to winning. But since then the Communists have broken with the Socialists, and there are suspicions that what they are up to is to elect a President of the Left they would rather see M. Giscard reelected than have M. Mitterrand and a triumphant Socialist Party in power. At any rate M. Marchais, the secretary general, will be the Communist candidate in the first round, and has been exchanging abuse with M. Mitterrand. It is not certain that the Communists will throw their weight behind M. Mitterrand in the second round.

Even if they do not, however, it need not necessarily hurt M. Mitterrand because he is following a different strategy from that of 1974. This year, in addition to getting votes from the Left, he is hoping to pick up support in the second round from disaffected Gaullists. He has even dissociated himself from much of the party manifesto adopted by the Socialists last weekend, and he could point to lack of support from the Communists as proof that he would not be indebted to them either. Yet as the only leftist candidate he would be bound to get some Communist votes, whatever the party's instructions.

If M. Mitterrand is elected, it will be the biggest change in French political life since 1958, when General de Gaulle came to power and laid the foundations of the Fifth Republic. He himself has been unwilling to say whether he would have Communists in his government. He has confined himself to undertaking to dissolve the National Assembly, with its Giscardian and Gaullist majority, and to hold new legislative elections, with a view to getting a new majority that he would work with. It would be a test of the constitution of the Fifth Republic: whether it could accommodate a change of this nature.

Closer relations

From Mr Anthony Wigram
Sir, Now that the basic principles governing industrial relations are once again under discussion, should we not consider the system which seems to have been so successful in Japan based on lifetime employment by a single firm?
It is easy to see why such a system should be successful because it nurtures the interests of the firm and the workers fairly and squarely on the same footing. Both are locked together for better or worse and must get the best out of each other so that each gets more by slicing a bigger cake rather than fighting for a larger share of a smaller one.
From the worker's point of view, the more successful the firm the better off he becomes, and because the fear that his own hard work and greater productivity will threaten his job or that of his friends is removed, it stands to reason that he is much more likely

to cooperate with schemes for modernization and retraining. Restrictive practices cease to be logical. From the point of view of the firm the commitment to lifetime employment acts as a spur to use employees imaginatively and profitably. Problems which may now have to be solved by diversification, new investment, and such like entrepreneurial skill—which is what justifies management anyway, and what it can achieve given the necessary loyalty and confidence from its employees.

From the point of view of trade unions the greatest source of grievance, unemployment, would be largely removed and they could begin to start to identify interests and objects held in common with management.

Most people are more likely to be generous, agreeable and cooperative if they have a sense of security, and it is quite clear that this kind of security is not engendered

by state-paid unemployment benefits, which are inadequate in all respects as well as being incredibly wasteful of skill and expensive to operate. Would it not be far better to give firms the responsibility to continue to give employment in difficult times, and to continue to use their labour as best they can, rather than to transfer this burden to the Government, which has no means of alleviating the harmful and demoralizing effect of redundancy?

The pruning and grooming proposed in the Government's Green Paper are not going to achieve any fundamental change in industrial relations, and indeed are not designed to do so. We need a bold stroke to change the whole environment, and lifetime employment must at least be worth thinking about.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY WIGRAM,
6 Queen Street,
Mayfair, W1.

Breath test controls

From Mr T. E. Rymer
Sir, One little noticed effect of the Transport Bill now before Parliament is that in the vast majority of cases of persons suspected of having driven motor vehicles with excess alcohol in their body the analytical evidence of this for prosecution will be obtained by a police constable at a police station using a sophisticated modern analytical instrument to determine the alcohol content of a breath specimen.

Under these circumstances there will be no opportunity for a motorist to have an independent analysis made, except in the very limited event where the breath test gives a reading of between 40 and 50 microgrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath, in which case the limited circumstances when the breath test gives a reading only a little over the proposed limit of 40 microgrammes per 100ml.

Any competent professional analyst is only too well aware of how modern sophisticated analytical techniques can suddenly produce the results, and such an analyst will recognize when results are suspect. I am utterly appalled that the police, with limited training, are to be given the power to conduct such tests for evidential use with in the majority of cases, no possibility of further checks being carried out. At present, of course, they must be when evidence relies on the analysis of divided specimens of blood or urine in all prosecutions, and frequently are when samples are taken for the purpose of the Food and Drugs Act and the Agriculture Act, etc.

In my opinion any motorist who suspects that the breath test has given a false result should be given the option to provide blood or urine specimens for subsequent analysis. This option should also be available to the police and the Bill should be amended accordingly, if possible gross injustice is not to result. Yours faithfully,
T. E. RYMER,
(Public Analyst, East and West Sussex),
The Analytical Laboratory,
7 Offham Road,
Lewes, Sussex,
January 21.

Side-effects of drugs

From Professor M. J. S. Langman
Sir, Much time is now spent trying to achieve a balance between the safety and efficacy of drugs. None is entirely safe (unless useless), nor entirely effective. This simple message is very poorly understood and very poorly reported. For example, one drug (January 19) is an excellent example of how not to inform.

To say "Some tranquillizers, sedatives" could reduce the sexual drive in some people is about as useful a statement as "Some people who ride bicycles could fall off and hurt themselves". The information not given (how often, how severe will be the injury and in what circumstances will it occur) is essential to any proper understanding. No one could be greatly surprised that medicines which tend to send people to sleep reduce sexual activity. What does matter is whether such an action is sufficiently important to limit drug usage. Surprisingly, rarely, or fearfully, however one looks at it, the effect does not seem to be very important, but proper education about the effects of drugs is. Yours faithfully,
M. J. S. LANGMAN,
Department of Therapeutics,
City Hospital, Nottingham.

The Pope in Britain

From the Reverend Francis Edwards
Sir, Dr A. C. J. Phillips (January 15) doubtless understands that the Roman Catholic attitude with regard to the Mass and those who celebrate and communicate at the same rests on grounds of theology and history and not on any desire to exclude anyone. Undoubtedly, however, he has a point, at least of interpretation, when he reminds us that a Mass said in Canterbury Cathedral could become not "a means of reconciliation but an affront to those denied participation". If we wish to stress the very real differences still remaining among Christians, the best way would be to celebrate the Mass. If, on the other hand, the common ground, the better idea would be to devise a non-eucharistic service in which not only Catholics, and Anglicans of whatever persuasion, but also Nonconformists could take part without embarrassment or affront to conscience. Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS EDWARDS,
Department of Heterography and Archives,
English Province of
The Society of Jesus,
114 Mount Street, W.1.

Economic planning effects

From Professor Lord Kaldor, FBA
Sir, Professor H. W. Singer (January 15) has rightly drawn attention to the dubious empirical basis of Professor Hayek's contrast (feature, January 9) between the successful capitalist free market economies and unsuccessful countries who remain poor or fell into sad decline as a result of following some form of socialism or of economic planning.

Unfortunately Professor Singer's examples do not include Professor Hayek's most glaring omission, which is none other than his own country of birth, Austria, where he spent the first 32 years of his life, the last eight of them as a successful professional economist, ending up as Director of the Austrian Institute of Economic Research. In contrast to the period of stagnation and high unemployment between the wars which he witnessed, Austria has had since the Second World War the most successful record in terms of fast economic growth, monetary stability and continuous full employment—indeed, a greater "economic miracle" than that of Germany or any other "developed" country

Implications of Labour's decision

From Lord Underhill
Sir, The decision of the Labour Party special conference for the 30-30-40 formula was arrived at only because of the incomprehensible attitude taken by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. That union wanted the Parliamentary Labour Party to have 75 per cent of the votes at an electoral college; when it failed with that motion the union then insisted, if it had voted for the 30-30-40 formula, which was the next best, there would have been a majority of over 500,000 for that proposal.

It is stated also that the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, with 425,000 votes, varied its previous view and put forward a motion for 30-30-40, by a decision of its executive committee, and that the National Union of Public Employees' delegation decided on a switch of support.

Such a position could arise at an election if the election of a party abstain because a first vote did not go its way, or there was a switch of support by a union executive committee or conference delegation, such a travesty of democracy could be the election of a party leader or even a Prime Minister. That would be a travesty for both Labour Party and parliamentary democracy.

Throughout my 50 years' membership of the Labour Party I have consistently refused to link up with any grouping. Others have not shared that concern and there have been pressures exerted by the Campaign for Party Democracy (which sees "one man, one vote" as being undemocratic), the Coordinating Committee, and latterly the Mobilising Committee, which includes the Trotskyist Militant Tendency.

Nothing will be gained by leaving the Labour Party. However, we must work for change. Therefore, it is my intention to now associate in my parliamentary work with the Manifesto Group and outside with the Campaign for Labour Victory on the understanding that it will work within the Labour Party to reverse the present position, as it has every right to do.

I regard this not as a struggle between "left and right", but a matter of democracy and common sense. I now hope that other Labour Party members will do likewise. Yours sincerely,
UNDERHILL,
House of Lords,
January 25.

From Mr Michael Pickering

Sir, I have been a member of the Labour Party since 1952 and am broadly in favour of such things as state control of important industries, workers' participation in the running of industry, comprehensive education, state medicine, municipalization of

Conglomerate ministries

From Lord Houghton of Sowerby
Sir, I do not believe that the conglomerate Department of Health and Social Security (report of John Silkin's address, Whitehall Brief, January 20) was put together by Sir Harold Wilson in 1968 "only to create a job suitable for Mr Richard Crossman". I urged Sir Harold to do this in 1965 when I was coordinating minister for the social services. There were problems of administration and barriers to providing comprehensive health and welfare to the people.

Above all, there were priorities to be decided. This entailed allocation of resources with inevitable choices between cash benefits and social services. Coordination became impossible when the departmental ministers, not in the Cabinet, demanded the right to attend Cabinet meetings to dissent from their coordinator's response to the Prime Minister's response to

housing, and redistribution of wealth through direct taxation; moreover, to oppose the siting of nuclear weapons in this country and regard our entry into the EEC as having been a mistake bordering upon disaster.

Obviously, therefore, my sympathy with Sir Leslie Murphy (January 21) in his despair with the Labour Party and his desire for a radical alternative cannot be ascribed purely and simply to the party's move to the left.

No, my disenchantment with the party for which I've worked for so many years arises because its present leftward movement has an almost Cadaverous quality, unfocused by any sense of history or understanding of democratic processes, and based on a romantic and patronising view of what the workers want.

Karl Marx was essentially a realist and knew that for a movement to succeed there must be a groundswell of discontent and of sympathy for its aim springing from people as they actually are and not after they have been lectured, as has often been by people claiming to know better.

Had he been alive today he would have been among the first to note (as Marcuse did) that nowadays people are different; unfortunately, he is no longer in a position to discuss the earnest army of self-styled disciples who utter absurdities in his name.

Where in the past the Labour Party has been strong and successful this has happened by virtue, first, of its capacity to contain within itself a richness of differing viewpoints and, second, of its flair for knowing when to advance and when simply to consolidate its gains. It is now buying itself with existing out of its ranks a large number of members, at all levels, who have brains, experience, and ability, but who suffer from the flaw of believing (for example) that MPs are representatives of all their constituents and not delegates under the control of excitable local parties, and who are sufficiently sacrilegious to want to temper conference decisions in the light of reality.

I do not believe that the Labour Party is doing anything to help the underprivileged by inflexibly insisting on the immediate implementation of aims such as those outlined above or by refusing to accept that some of them may perhaps never be realised. I have studied David Steel's 10 points and find them not only sensible, but also—from the evidence of recent opinion surveys—in tune with what many people are thinking. They have much more to offer the mass of working people than has a political party that seems determined to remain in opposition, lamenting the revolution that never happened. Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL PICKERING,
33 Oakwood Road, NW11.

my pleading to create a "conglomerate" similar to the model of the Ministry of Defence, to create the Public Expenditure Scrutiny Committee (PESC) where departmental ministers could take their money troubles and their rivals. All that did was to save us having them out in front of the Cabinet.

After I left the Cabinet in 1967, two successors went through similar experiences. When ministerial changes provided the opportunity of creating the "conglomerate" in 1968, two candidates were approached and both insisted on it. Crossman got the job, but I wouldn't say that the Department of Health and Social Security was made to measure for him. More likely, I think, he tried it on for size and the tailor thought it was a perfect fit. Yours, etc,
HOUGHTON OF SOWERBY,
House of Lords,
January 20.

University election

From the Reverend L. R. Hobbs
Sir, Professor Morris's letter (January 21) aptly summarizes my own and, I suspect, many others' feelings as to the unsuitability of the three candidates for the chancellorship of Loughborough University. I would hope, however, that there will not be a mass abstention by those eligible to vote. A far more forceful point would be made if there were substantial numbers of spoilt papers returned. At least then we should be able to distinguish between those who are unhappy with the arrangements and those who have just not bothered. In my own case I have added a covering note expressing my dismay at the standing committee's handling of the whole matter.

If this particular election is to be a non-event, let us ensure that the next one is not. Yours faithfully,
LESLIE R. HOBBS,
4 Oakengates,
Haworth,
Bracknell, Berkshire,
January 22.

hanks were nationalized after the war and have remained nationalized ever since—her "public sector" is thus larger, percentage-wise, than that of any other "mixed economy". She has a corporate economic structure embodied in the Constitution which provides for an elected "Chamber of Labour" (a kind of workers' parliament) as well as an elected "Chamber of Commerce" (representing the entrepreneurs). All important decisions concerning price and wage policies, budgeting and monetary policy, etc. are taken in consultation with these elected bodies and their innumerable sub-committees; there is a tradition of workers' participation in management in both public and private enterprises. She is thus the prime example of a society where all decisions are arrived at by consensus reached between the different "social partners".

The single example of postwar Austria is, in my view, sufficient to blow away Professor Hayek's generalizations concerning "the philosophy of the Brandt report". Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS KALDOR,
King's College,
Cambridge,
January 16.

Natural History Museum plans

From Sir John Bejerman and others
Sir, It is surely ironic in this centenary year of Alfred Waterhouse's mastery of Natural History Museum in South Kensington that recently Michael Heseltine, Environment Secretary, supported the recommendation of his inspector at the public inquiry permitting the demolition of a substantial part of the building. The trustees intend to replace the Eastern Galleries with a five-storey block containing new galleries, a restaurant and educational facilities.

At the inquiry, the Greater London Council submitted an alternative showing the feasibility of retaining the existing galleries and converting the non-public areas on the ground floor of the present building to provide additional exhibition space and the other facilities incorporated in the trustees' own proposals. If such a scheme were adopted not only would this splendid grade I listed building remain intact for the future enjoyment of countless visitors but a saving in cost would be made of some £5m and building work be completed in approximately three years instead of six required for the sanctioned project.

Commenting in his report on the GLC alternative, the inspector said: "I believe the problems of housing part of the public exhibition on the ground floor are capable of solution." What is required is a willingness to solve the problems posed. In opting to support the trustees' proposals he admitted his decision was finely balanced.

Notwithstanding, the inspector's conclusion was belatedly the balance to be in favour of the alternative scheme. The advantages of an approach on the principles exemplified in the GLC scheme are, we submit, overwhelming and demand a reconsideration of the present decision.

Yours etc.,
JOHN BEJERMAN,
PATRICK BOYLAN,
D. T. DONOVAN,
A. R. DUFFY,
MICHAEL ROBBINS,
DAVID WATERHOUSE,
29 Radnor Walk, SW3.

Vaccine damage liability

From Mrs Rosemary Fox
Sir, When serious injury results from medical intervention, many doctors argue that there should not be legal action, or campaigns, to secure compensation for all disability is equal and should be catered for under the state system of disability benefits.

(This argument would only be acceptable if the state could afford to pay to all disabled people the amount of loss which they incurred following an accurate assessment of their needs—in which case, of course, campaigns and legal action would cease overnight. Since it is highly unlikely that the state will ever be able to pay disability benefits at this level, healthy individuals on whom injury is inflicted have a perfect right to pursue compensation claims based on the cause of injury to provide adequately for their needs and the law has always recognized this right.)

One of the campaigns criticized by doctors in your column is that for vaccine damaged children. The Pearson Commission recommended, and Parliament accepted, that they have a special claim to compensation because they have been placed at risk in the interests of the health of the public generally.

Doctors may not see anything unique about their disability, but the parents who produced them as healthy children, and who now suffer financial and emotional hardship do. The Government refusal to pay compensation is penalizing these families for the second time.

It would be interesting to discover if those who argue against compensation claims based on cause of injury would, if seriously injured themselves, insist on full compensation and be satisfied with state benefits.

Yours faithfully,
ROSEMARY FOX,
Secretary, Association of Parents of Vaccine Damaged Children,
2 Church Street,
Shipston-on-Stour,
Warwickshire,
January 20.

Medical redundancies

From Dr Alex Paton
Sir, The problem of medical unemployment (January 20) could be solved quite easily. Many disillusioned senior doctors know that the hospital service in particular is overmanned; they are counting the days to retirement but cannot afford to go early because inflation makes a nonsense of pensions based on the last three years of service.

The Government, I suspect, is well aware of the position, but is afraid to apply the concept of redundancy to the National Health Service, not because of political unpopularity but because of the exodus that would result.

Yours faithfully,
ALEX PATON,
15 Charlotte Road,
Birmingham,
January 21.

Urgent cable

From Miss Vera Watkins
Sir, With reference to Mr Easthope's account (January 22) of the death of Queen Victoria, it may not be generally known that his efforts to be first with the news were very nearly successful.

That submarine cable connecting Osborne House with the mainland broke shortly before the Queen died. My father, then a junior lieutenant, Philip Watkins, Royal Engineers, got urgent orders to repair it. The job was completed just in time. Yours faithfully,
VERA H. WATKINS,
Sikthay Cottage,
Netherbury,
Nor Bridport,
Dorset,
January 22.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

EXPERIENCE, EXPERTISE,
AND TEAMWORK
IN CONSTRUCTION.
**TAYLOR
WOODROW**

Sir William Barlow calls for state groups to be restructured

By Peter Hill

A call to restructure the nationalized industries and bring them under the jurisdiction of the Companies Acts, operating as though they were subject to Stock Exchange rules, was made last night as part of an eight-point programme by Sir William Barlow, former chairman of the Post Office.

Sir William, who resigned last year after a series of disagreements about the degree of intervention in the Post Office's affairs, said the state industries could be changed into Companies Act concerns with equity capital forming most of the funds, even if all the shares were held by the Government.

Under the new structure they would be expected to pay a dividend, and public performance ratios should be published in the same way as they were for private sector companies, with shares available for purchase by the public.

Barlow said some would become like British Petroleum, whose ownership is shared, in operations and performance.

Sir William was addressing a meeting organized by the Royal Institute for Public Administration on the problems of managing nationalized industries. He said that once transformation had been achieved, the term "nationalized industries" itself should be abolished because it had become synonymous with "difficult, argument, subsidy and inadequate performance."

He said the new structure could be called "national companies."

After the change, the Government should be responsible for the appointment of chairmen and of the non-executive directors of the new companies. The non-executive board members might select a chairman but would certainly be responsible.

Talks on loans to boost energy conservation

By Our Industrial Editor

Discussions are taking place between the European Investment Bank and the Treasury, along with other financial institutions, to develop a loan scheme promoting energy conservation investment in the United Kingdom.

Top officials of the EIB want to be similar to the North Sea to be used for storage. The orders form part of a £1,400m investment over the next four years.

Arab stake increased

Kuwait Investment Office has increased its stake in Royal Insurance to 5.39 per cent. It now has holdings of more than 3 per cent in most big British insurance companies.

Brokers' talks fail

R. P. Martin, the London-based money broker, has broken off talks with Bierbaum, the German money broker, about a permanent trading relationship.

Financial Editor, page 17

STC redundancies

Between 300 and 400 at Standard Telephone and Cables (STC) two Northern Ireland factories are expected to be made redundant as a result of the Government's tight borrowing restrictions on British Telecom.

Touche Ross merger

Touche Ross is expanding its international links with a merger in Hongkong with Kwan Wong Tan Fong, the largest Chinese firm of chartered accountants.

Tax avoidance move

The Inland Revenue is asking for suggestions on the replacement of the provision for counteracting international tax avoidance by companies.

NEB appointment

Sir Geoffrey Wood was yesterday confirmed as chairman of the National Enterprise Board.

Wall Street lower

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 1.28 points down to 938.91. The S&P 500 was 1.2594. The £ was 0.523785.

Oil companies have appealed to the Government to raise the extra £1,000m it planned to take from North Sea revenues next year, through a temporary mechanism, rather than by imposing a new supplementary tax.

A letter sent by the United Kingdom Offshore Operators' Association to Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, has expressed the companies' worries about many changes in fiscal policy.

They are concerned that the new supplementary revenue tax, imposed on top of corporation tax, petroleum revenue tax and royalties, may have damaging effects on North Sea development.

They want the Government to revise North Sea taxes so that they attack profits rather than revenues.

The companies have recognized that an extra £1,000m is to be raised from the North Sea next year, it would be unrealistic to expect the Chancellor to reverse his decision. But, rather than impose a bad tax, the companies would prefer the £1,000m to be raised by temporary means while both sides examined ways of improving the overall tax structure.

Part of the £1,000m is to be raised through revisions of

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Blk Leumi UK	15p to 195p	GRE	8p to 300p
Boustead	10p to 128p	Horizon Travel	10p to 148p
BP	12p to 402p	Mercantile Hse	20p to 570p
Burton Gpy	11p to 108p	Rotaprint	8p to 27p
GEC	10p to 355p		

Falls

Alexis Discount	17p to 267p	Middle Wits	125p to 625p
East Dagea	12p to 89p	S A Land	5p to 195p
E Rand Prop	11p to 53p	Waskie Coll	5p to 43p
Elburg Gold	41p to 168p	Western Areas	64p to 242p
Marivale Con	15p to 155p	W Rand Cons	20p to 137p

THE POUND

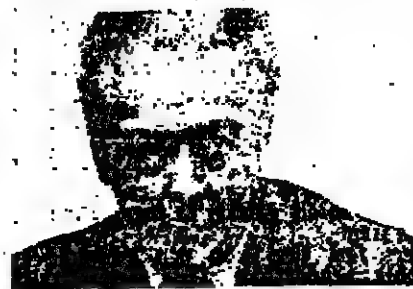
Bank	buys	Bank	buys	Bank	buys	Bank	buys
Australia	2.12	Netherlands Gld	5.48	Bank	5.25	Bank	5.25
Austria Sch	36.20	Norway Kr	13.19	Bank	12.64	Bank	12.64
Belgium Fc	87.25	Portugal Esc	204.00	Bank	12.60	Bank	12.60
Canada S	2.93	Spain Pta	169.00	Bank	1.98	Bank	1.98
Denmark Kc	16.40	Sweden Kr	11.20	Bank	10.70	Bank	10.70
Finland Mk	9.83	Switzerland Fr	2.47	Bank	2.40	Bank	2.40
France Fr	11.58	Yugoslavia Ddr	55.00	Bank	60.00	Bank	60.00
Germany DM	5.08						
Greece Dr	123.00						
Hong Kong S	12.80						
Italy Lira	2410.00						
Ireland Pst	1.35						
Japan Yn	513.00						

Sir Hugh Fraser tells of new move to oust him

By Philip Robinson

House of Fraser directors will meet at Bankers' House in Kensington High Street, London tomorrow to try to decide who runs Britain's largest stores group.

The meeting has been called not by Sir Hugh Fraser, the group's chairman, who staged a dramatic reconciliation with Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, Lonrho's chief executive, last week, but by Mr George Willoughby, another House of Fraser director.



Sir Hugh Fraser: "no love lost between me and Warburg".

Sir Hugh said last night: "I expect they will try to remove me from the board. And if they succeed I expect we will have another meeting to see if the shareholders want to see Sir Hugh Fraser pushed out as chairman."

The future role of S. G. Warburg, House of Fraser's merchant bank, and Lonrho's stockbroker, is also expected to be on the agenda. Neither was available for comment last night.

Sir Hugh said: "There is no love lost between me and Warburg. It is not generally known but they tried to get me out of chairman last July. I was supported by the rest of the board."

"That was before the two additions of Professor Roland Smith and Mr Ernest Sharp were made (to the board). I had no objection to the outside director, and Casanova has done a superb job for us."

Professor Smith was given a salary of £50,000 a year after he deposed Mr Rowland as non-executive deputy chairman in August.

Lonrho, with two representatives on the House of Fraser board—Mr Rowland and Lord Duncan-Sandys—made it clear after last week's reconciliation that there was no place in the future of the stores group for either Professor Smith or Warburg.

The board meeting tomorrow is the latest in a series of events which started last Monday on the eve of the special shareholders' meeting to decide whether the group should go ahead with the £29m sale and leaseback scheme for the D. H. Evans Oxford Street store.

That night a private letter from Mr Rowland was given to Sir Hugh. Its contents did not concern any criticism of the management of House of Fraser but made personal references to Sir Hugh.

Sir Hugh said last night: "He accused me of being bankrupt. I said I could write him a cheque for £250,000—or was it £300,000? I can't remember now."

"Yes, I have been gambling again, it might as well come out into the open. The last time I gambled was this month. I won in one place, lost in another, and came out even over all. But I'm finished with all that now."

The day after the letter was received, Sir Hugh won shareholders' support for the D. H. Evans deal on a show of hands by 62 to 26, but also the backing of 71.4 million votes against the £18 million which included Lonrho's own 45 million shares.

Once again shareholders had rejected what had been described as Lonrho's "harassment" of House of Fraser as decisively as they had at the annual meeting last year.

That afternoon, House of Fraser directors went into a board meeting, after which Sir Hugh says, Lord Garmyle of S. G. Warburg asked him to resign.

Then on Thursday, Sir Hugh received a message from Mr Rowland saying that he wanted to see him. Mr Rowland rang from Paris and flew to the Marine Hotel in Troon, Ayrshire, arriving at 7 pm and leaving about 9.10 pm. They talked of misunderstandings and made it up. "We agreed there had been faults on both sides," Sir Hugh said.

Subsequently, Mr Paul Spicer, a Lonrho director, said the trading group now stood firmly behind Sir Hugh and would have its wholehearted support as chairman of House of Fraser.

Sir Hugh said last night: "I've told Roland that I will be acting for all the shareholders of Fraser, not one side or the other. He gave me an assurance that the harassment would stop, and I believe him."

At midnight on Friday, Mr David Scholey, chairman of S. G. Warburg, rang Sir Hugh seeking a meeting the next day. Sir Hugh said: "There were two representatives from Warburg and one from Casanova and they wanted to know what their position was, and I told them it was up to the Fraser board."

Meanwhile there is growing unrest among a number of House of Fraser's institutional shareholders, the pension funds and insurance companies. Between last June and last week's extraordinary meeting, institutions were encouraged to buy Fraser shares, which sent their proportion of the equity up from around 35 per cent to nearly 40 per cent.

Mr Hugh Jenkins, director-general of the National Coal Board Pension Fund, the Post Office Pension Fund and Lucas, has sought a meeting with Sir Hugh. Professor Smith and Mr Sharp, Sir Hugh said: "Contact was made, but they wanted the three of us there, which could not be arranged."

Report calls for tight Fed money policy

From Frank Vogel Washington, Jan 26

The Southwest Bank of St Louis today cut its prime commercial lending rate to 19 per cent from 20 per cent. Other United States banks may make a similar cut in the next few weeks, according to Wall Street experts.

Meanwhile, a report published today by the Domestic Monetary Policy Committee of the United States House of Representatives called for a long-term strategy of tight Federal Reserve policy.

Mr Warren Mitchell, the committee's chairman, said: "We will not achieve economic stability unless we get M1B growth down to 2 to 3 per cent per year and keep it there."

The report called for greater efforts by the Fed to secure slower money supply growth and for less concern over seeking to regulate interest rate levels.

Mr Mitchell stressed that attaining 2-3 per cent per year M1B growth may take several years, but that "this is the essential prerequisite for achieving minimal inflation, minimal unemployment and low interest rates."

The Fed is showing no sign of easing its tight money policy, despite increasing expectations that the level of economic activity will slump significantly in the next few months. This expected slump, bringing a fall in general commercial loan demand, is fueling expectations of a prime rate reduction soon.

The Fed's policy decisions in the next few weeks are likely to be critically influenced by the fiscal policy decisions of the Reagan Administration and the congressional response to these decisions.

The Fed is encouraging the Administration to make substantial public spending cuts.

Gold plunges as sterling advances again

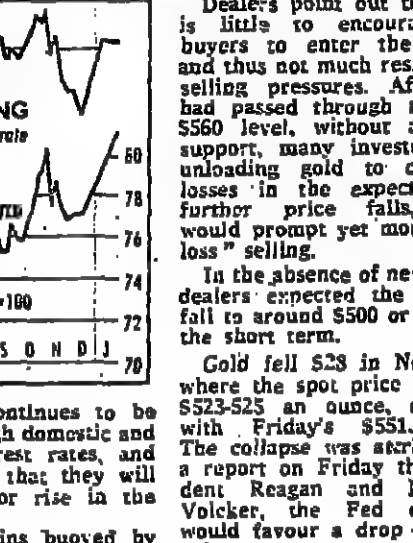
By Frances Williams

Sterling continued to advance against all the main world currencies yesterday, reaching a 10-month high against a number of continental currencies. But gold plunged to its lowest closing level since the end of May last year, down 23 from Friday's close at \$329.30.

The pound's effective exchange rate against a basket of currencies rose to 81.0, up 0.6 from Friday's close. It was last around this level in April 1975. Against the dollar, which carries a weight of about one-third in the index, sterling fell by just one cent to end the day at \$2.4165, back at the levels reached in mid-November.

The dollar was stronger against continental currencies and the yen. The Deutsche mark proved especially stable, as the dollar finished trading at DM 2.0542, up 21 pfennigs.

Foreign exchange dealers were unable to identify any new factors to explain yesterday's sharp rises in the United Kingdom and United States currencies, though some suggested that there had been switching out of gold.



Dealers point out that there is little to encourage new buyers to enter the market, and thus not much resistance to selling pressures. After gold had passed through the \$350-\$360 level, without attracting support, many investors were unloading gold to cut their losses in the expectation of further price falls, which would prompt yet more "stop-loss" selling.

In the absence of new buyers, dealers expected the price to fall to around \$300 or below in the short term.

Gold fell \$23 in New York, where the spot price closed at \$323.525 an ounce, compared with Friday's \$351.50-\$353.50. The collapse was attributed to a report on Friday that President Reagan and Mr Paul Volcker, the Fed's chairman, would favour a drop in gold's price.

The continuing appreciation of the pound is worrying for the Government and for industry, which is faced with ever-worsening competitiveness in both domestic and overseas markets.

But last night the Treasury was sticking firmly to the official line that the exchange rates should be left to the market to determine.

Index higher: An 8.2 point rise in the FT index to 463.9 yesterday, the opening day of the new account, had insufficient volume behind it to be justified, according to many jobbers (Catherine Gunn writes).

It was triggered by a more confident mood in the market, based on the widespread belief that minimum lending rate will be cut by 2 per cent in the Budget. This kept sellers out of the market and allowed share prices to firm up, so that the thinnest demand sent shares up sharply.

Monday is usually a poor day for business and few institutions were buying, but with no sellers of stock their sporadic interest and a handful of bargain hunters meant that share prices were marked up steadily throughout the day.

A marked change of mood in the oil market, which sent index constituent BP up 12p to 402p, provided extra help. In the gilt market, there was a sale as investors got ready to switch into the new convertible tap stock announced on Friday. There was some recovery after hours.

CBI warning on £34m rates burden

By Clifford Webb

Midland Industrial Correspondent

The Confederation of British Industry has warned Birmingham's Labour-controlled city council that a proposed 40 per cent increase in rates will cost local companies an extra £34m which can only be raised at the expense of jobs and investment.

Mr David Richards, chairman of the CBI's West Midlands branch, said the council's decision to increase rates by 40 per cent would be a disaster for the city. He said the council should be aware of the dangers in a letter to Councillor Clive Wilkinson, leader of the city council.

He pointed out that with output more than 10 per cent below 1979's average and a string of falling, many sectors of manufacturing industry were experiencing their worst slump for 50 years. In some cases order books had shrunk by up to 60 per cent over the past 12 months.

"The recession has been particularly severe within those industries which predominate in the West Midlands. During the last year more than 70,000 people have been made redundant in the region and at least double this number are on short time."

"There are as yet no signs of economic activity which will put us before the end of the summer, if then. Even if it does, the extent of the upturn is uncertain and there is no confidence of its return to pre-recession levels," Mr Richards said.

£7m bid by Associated Newspapers for Bristol Evening Post

By Richard Allen

Associated Newspapers, the publishing to North Sea oil group headed by Lord Rothermere, has launched a 199p a share bid for the Bristol Evening Post, which it already has a near 24 per cent stake.

The bid puts a value of £7.76m on the Post, which through Bristol United Press, its trading subsidiary, publishes the Evening Post, the Western Daily Press, New Observer and other titles including the Western Gazette and South Avon Mercury.

Associated, which publishes the Daily Mail and a string of magazine and provincial titles, said yesterday that it had put takeover proposals to the Post board last September. It had decided to go to shareholders direct after failing to reach agreement with the Post board.

It was still not clear last night whether or not the bid would be opposed, though this seemed possible. Mr Andrew Breach, chairman, said his board intended to discuss it at a meeting on Thursday.

However, there is understood to be anger in the Post camp over Associated's plan to overturn existing stakeholding agreements between the two groups at an extraordinary meeting before making its bid. The agreements include the understanding that Associated would not make a contested bid for the company.

Associated and its major shareholders, the Daily Mail and General Trust between them hold 40 per cent of the Post's trading subsidiary as a result of an agreement after the merger of certain publications in the early 1960s.

For this reason Associated's bid is believed almost certain to escape a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. As recently as last April the commission stated that Associated could be adjudged a proprietor of the Post's newspaper interests because of its shareholdings.

The bid represents an 85p premium over Post's Friday closing price and yesterday its shares rose to 180p on the announcement.

The Bristol group's shares have been under a cloud since December, when it revealed an interim loss of £53,000 blaming the National Graphical Association dispute last spring, which cost £1m and a drop in classified advertising revenues. The previous year it made a pre-tax profit of £2.6m.

Associated, which earlier this month reported a drop in pre-tax profits from £23.9m to £22.5m for last year, ended the period with a pre-tax loss of £5m after allowing for closure costs of more than £24.4m at the London Evening News.

Financial Editor, page 17



Government Broker appointed

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke

Financial Editor

Lord Cromwell is to succeed Sir Thomas Gore Brown as the Government Broker or Senior Broker to the National Debt Commissioners — when Sir Thomas retires on April 7.

By tradition, extending back to the late 18th century, the post of Government Broker is filled by the senior partner of Mullens & Company, a City stockbroking firm.

Lord Cromwell is 51, a barrister who became a partner in Mullens in 1960 and was appointed Second Government Broker in 1973 when Sir Thomas became the Government Broker.

The Government Broker is responsible as an agent of the Bank of England, for selling government debt to the public through the jobbing system and maintaining an orderly gilt-edged market by the tactical purchase of maturing stock.

Swiss tighten secrecy over movements of bullion

Mr Thornton Bradshaw, president of the Atlantic Richfield Company and chairman of The Observer newspaper, will resign his present position to become chairman of the RCA Corporation, after the surprise resignation of Mr Edgar Griffiths, aged 59.

It appears that frequent disagreements between Mr Griffiths and the RCA board have resulted in his decision to leave the company when he turns 60 in July. Mr Bradshaw, aged 63, has been a director of RCA for the last nine years.

RCA is a conglomerate owning such companies as NBC television, CIT Financial and Hertz, the car rental agency, and it had profits of \$315m (£131.25m) last year on sales of \$6,010m.

Mr Griffiths has headed RCA for the last four years and his ruthless management style has produced considerable tension among the top echelons. Last summer he dismissed Maurice Valente, who only five months earlier had been appointed RCA's president.

Another dispute arose when at about the same time Mr Griffiths fired Mrs Jane Cahill Pfeiffer, chairman of NBC, and sought at first to avoid paying off her contract. The public wrangle ended with the RCA board paying Mrs Pfeiffer with an \$800,000 settlement.

Mr Griffiths did, however, streamline the conglomerate, selling some subsidiaries and buying the CIT Financial Corporation for \$1,350m last year. At the same time he pressed ahead with the development of a television video record system that he launched in a few months' time.

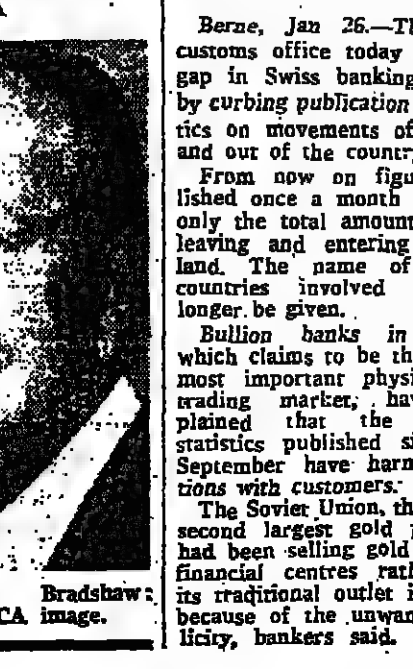
A notable failure for Mr

Griffiths has been reviving the fortunes of NBC television, which has badly trailed CBS and ABC television networks in the last three years and whose profits have been almost cut in half now to less than \$70m a year.

Mr Bradshaw, who has been president of ARCO for 14 years, is expected to calm many of the personnel storms created by Mr Griffiths and strengthen the general public image.

He said he would evaluate each of the company's subsidiaries. He will take a five-year contract, but given his age, one of his prime tasks will be finding the future heads of RCA.

Mr Griffiths will remain a member of the RCA board and he will also be given a five-year consultant's contract paying \$450,000 a year.



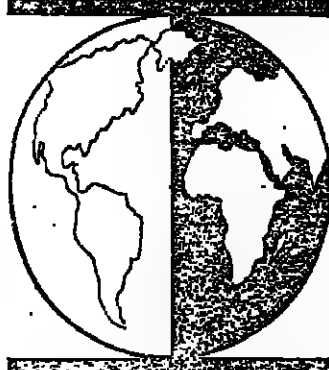
Mr Thornton Bradshaw: strengthening RCA image.

Just under 40 tonnes of gold were imported from the Soviet Union to Switzerland in 1980, compared to estimated sales of 230 tonnes in 1973, according to the customs figures. But this mainly reflected lower Soviet sales overall rather than discontent with Zurich, the bankers said.

Bulgaria and Romania sent about 56 tonnes to Switzerland. Some of this may have originated from the Soviet Union or might have been smuggled from Turkey, they added.

The customs office said that the naming of countries involved in gold movement could be misleading.

Some gold was moved to or from Switzerland for reasons other than market transaction, and not all gold sold in Zurich appeared in the customs figures because it was stored in duty-free warehouses while in Switzerland—Reuters.



US officials seek aid for Chrysler from Japan

Mr Michio Watanabe, the Japanese finance minister said that three senior United States officials were seeking Japan's help in rescuing the ailing Chrysler car corporation.

He said that he had passed the request on to Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Prime Minister, but would not say what the Reagan Administration wanted from Japan or name the three officials, although government sources said one of the three was Mr Paul Volcker, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

Chrysler has a minor shareholding in Mitsubishi Motors which has been a leading supplier of small cars and engines for sale by Chrysler in the United States.

Tigris project

A German-Italian consortium led by Hochtief, the West German heavy construction company, has been awarded a contract valued at around DM3,000m (£596m) by the Iraqi government to build a dam across the River Tigris.

Cargo carrier funding

The Wah Kwong shipping group has negotiated a financial package from Charterbank Bank worth the equivalent of £23.75m to cover part of the construction costs of a 260,000 ton deadweight dry cargo carrier for Chivalry Carriers.

Bonn M3 up 6.9%

West Germany's seasonally adjusted broadly-defined money supply, M3, grew at a projected annual rate of 6.9 per cent in December, up from 5.9 per cent in November and 3.5 per cent in December 1979.

Alfa workers laid off

More than 6,000 workers at the Alfa Romeo plants in Milan were laid off for the rest of the week under plans by the management of the state owned car manufacturer to reduce excessive stocks.

German inflation up

The West German cost of living index for January is expected to show a rise of around 6 per cent compared with the January 1980 figure after a 5.5 per cent year on year rise in December.

GM spending

General Motors is to spend \$80,000m (£33,333m) on new products, plant and technology between now and the end of the decade, according to an American trade paper.

China's 'open door'

China is maintaining an "open door" policy in foreign trade and economic cooperation, despite economic restraint and cuts in capital investment, Vice Premier Gu Mu said.

Credit for India

India is seeking a 7-year, \$200m (£83.3m) bank loan for its Oil and Natural Gas Commission with a margin of only 1 point above the London Inter-Bank Borrowing Rate for the first two years and then 1 point above it for the last five years.

Romania canal loan

The Investment Bank of Romania has successfully negotiated an 8-year \$200m (£83.3m) loan with 32 banks for financing of the Danube-Black Sea canal project.

Swiss interest move

Two leading Swiss cantonal banks are to raise 5 per cent interest on medium term notes of all maturities. The large commercial banks raised their rates on Friday.

Brazil approach

The Brazilian Government has approached the French state-owned Renault motor group about the possibility of establishing a motor industry in the Recife region.

Futures inquiry

The Taiwan police have detained several executives of unauthorized futures trading houses on charges of fraud and tax evasion.

Morocco loan

The World Bank is to lend Morocco \$136m (£56.6m) to boost the tourist trade and employment.

Dutch orders

The Dutch seasonally adjusted index of industrial orders in hand was unchanged at 91 (January 1978 = 100) in December.

Poor wine harvest

The West German wine industry had a "catastrophic" 1980 harvest of 102 million gallons, 43 per cent less than in 1979.

Harrods orders

Buyers from Harrods department store are to place substantial orders for fashion dresses and separates designed and manufactured in Hongkong.

US car sales down

New car sales in the United States declined 9.4 per cent in mid-January compared with 1980.

European and Japanese banks will be preferred for future borrowings

Iran's credit rating likely to improve

When the controversy over the 52 American hostages has died down, many European bankers privately predict that Iran may emerge with a good credit rating and a need to borrow, but with a strong preference for dealing with European or Japanese banks.

Iran is generally regarded now as uncreditworthy. But the Swiss Credit Bank and Banque Nationale de Paris say they are still providing short-term trade and bridging finance against strong guarantees. Most European bankers, however, agree with Mr Gilbert de Botton, of the Bank Rothschild in Zurich, that Iran could raise longer-term money today only by pledging gold or cash.

While Iran's domestic politics and its war with Iraq account for much of the European bankers' reserve, another factor is the claims that many western banks and companies still have against the country.

Although Iran has agreed to pay off all its roughly \$3,600m (£1,500m) worth of syndicated bank debts, the big American and European banks still have outstanding about \$1,400m of private loans to Iranian companies and individuals. In addition, the bankers also want compensation for the 47 foreign-controlled banks nationalized at the revolution.

The British, West German and French

export-promotion banks still refuse to extend credit to Iran. It is a simple matter of risk assessment that has nothing to do with the hostages, a spokesman for Britain's Export Credit Guarantee Department said.

There is no sign, however, that Iran wants to borrow from western banks. At a recent seminar, Mr Ibrahim Bahmaie, London manager of Bank Saderat, one of Iran's leading banks, said he did not expect Iran would need to borrow from foreign banks this year.

One of the reasons why Iran agreed—to the surprise of many bankers—to pay off immediately all its syndicated bank debt, is thought to be a cash shortage that made it desperate to recover at least some of its frozen assets quickly to finance the war with Iraq.

Bankers feel that Iran can probably keep going without foreign assistance for the best part of a year on the \$3,000m in gold and cash it has already recovered in return for the hostages, together with its earnings from the 700,000 to 1 million barrels of oil it apparently is now selling daily at about \$37 a barrel.

Iran's credit standing in Europe is surprisingly good, Mr Yves Laidan, chief economist at Societe Generale, a big French state bank, said. The financial side of the picture must be separated from the humanitarian.

Many European bankers seem to agree. They argue that Iran has sought to meet its financial obligations, within the limits imposed by the Carter freeze. The bankers remain critical of the freeze, particularly its extension to Iranian funds in overseas branches of American banks, which is still seen as unwarranted political interference in other countries' affairs.

They also say that Iran will emerge from the assets freeze almost free of foreign debt, if outstanding claims can be successfully arbitrated by the tribunal provided for in the hostage agreement.

Some American bankers also show signs of wanting to patch up their quarrel with Iran. Morgan Guaranty, which infuriated the West German Government last year by persuading a German court to attach Iran's roughly 25 per cent stake in Krupp and Deutsche Babcock, confirmed last week that it would like the court to lift the order now that the American bank has been repaid.

Most European bankers are convinced Iran's leaders will never again do business with the big American banks. But some of them see the decision by Iran to repay most American syndicated bank debt as a calculated attempt to wipe the slate clean.

Paul Lewis

New York Times News Service

Rolls-Royce expecting 1982 profit

By Arthur Reed

Rolls-Royce, the state-owned aero-engine manufacturer, expects a return to profitability in 1982 after making losses during 1979, 1980 and this year.

For 1980 in May, the company is expected to report a halving of its pre-tax loss of £58.4m made in 1979. It made £11.7m in 1978, its last profitable year.

Although it is still suffering in overseas markets through the strong rate for sterling against the dollar, two other factors are helping Rolls towards its financial turnaround. These are the slowing of the inflation rate in Britain and the increasing productivity by its 57,000 workers.

By 1984, the company expects that productivity will equal that of Pratt and Whitney and General Electric, its main American rivals.

As part of the drive towards higher productivity, Rolls is to shed 2,000 jobs this year and a further 1,000 in 1982, mainly through natural wastage.

Union calls for increased public investment in chemicals

By John Hurley

Leaders yesterday urged the Government to take the lead in maximizing the use of North Sea feedstocks in Britain by enlarging the public stake in the chemicals industry.

One way in which this could be done is by allowing the British National Oil Corporation to become a producer of petrochemicals. The state-owned corporation is being allowed to act as a wholesaler for feedstock gases which will become available from the North Sea.

The Government has so far ruled out its entry into downstream activities.

The suggestion is included in a union report containing a 10-point recovery plan for the chemicals industry launched by the General and Municipal Workers' Union in London yesterday.

The union says that a full scale programme to harness and use the feedstocks is urgently needed, and it accuses the multinational companies like Shell, ICI, Esso and BP

of reacting belatedly to the opportunities now presented. The union notes that investment is estimated to be likely to fall by as much as 30 per cent between 1978 and 1982.

"It is nonsense for the industry to claim that the resources are not available. On the contrary, billions of pounds will be coming available every year from the Government's North Sea revenues and from the vast savings in pension schemes."

"This money must be channelled to where it is needed—investment projects such as those associated with North Sea feedstocks, which are crucial to industry's long term survival."

The GMWU repeats its call for selective import controls. It points out that United States imports of chemicals to the European Community have risen quickly, and in the case of some products, like PVC, trebled in the first half of last year alone.

The GMWU report, *Crisis in Chemicals*, strongly criticizes the role of the large companies

and defends workers against allegations of excessive wage claims and low productivity. It claims that the campaign by the Chemical Industries Association to ameliorate the burden of unitary pay awards imposed by industry was a noisy, diversionary tactic.

Publication of the report coincided with the opening yesterday of the union's national chemicals conference, Mr David Warburton, the national industrial officer, told delegates:

"There is no doubt that some chemical companies are in difficulties as a result of Thatcherism, but that is no excuse for the scale of cutbacks in certain companies."

Large-scale redundancies have been announced in recent months by BP Chemicals, Shell, ICI Fibres and Fisons in its fertilizer division.

Although the GMWU supports new investment, it appears to have been unable or unwilling to evaluate the merits even in terms of jobs pay-off, of the various schemes now competing for access to North Sea feedstocks.

Japan offer to limit car exports

Tokyo, Jan 26.—Japan will offer to limit its car exports to West Germany and 10 European countries this year to last year's levels, in an effort to smooth trade frictions with the European Economic Community.

The proposal will be made at the half-yearly consultations tomorrow and Thursday in Tokyo on the EEC-Japanese trade imbalance which was \$9,000m in Japan's favour last year.

About 10 delegates from the EEC, led by Sir Roy Denman, the European Commission's director-general for external relations, arrived over the weekend and began calling on their counterparts.

West Germany, Belgium, the

Netherlands and Luxembourg were selected for Japan's offer of restraint because these markets have been open to free international competition in automobile trade.

British, Italian, French and other European makers also wish to see a decline in Japan's share, although Japan already exercises informal restraint in these markets.

The Japanese Government thought a single package of restrictions on car exports to the EEC would be too harsh on the Japanese industry.

Japanese cars account for nearly 25 per cent of the European market. Between January and October last year 87,800

units were sold in Belgium, more than the 1979 annual total of 76,000 units, and 109,300 units were sold in The Netherlands.

Japan nearly doubled its share of the West German new car market to 10.4 per cent in 1980 from 5.7 per cent in 1979 and displaced France as the leading importer, accounting for 22,000 units.

During the two-day official talks the EEC delegation is also expected to press Japan to give a rapid boost to farming, food and manufactured imports from the EEC, lift all import curbs, and bring the EEC on its trade negotiations with the United States. Agence France-Presse.

Further job fears over Tate closure

By R. W. Shakespeare

Trade union representatives on Merseyside have expressed fears that the planned closure of the Tate and Lyle sugar refinery in Liverpool, with the loss of 1,570 jobs, could lead to still more cutbacks in an area where unemployment is already running at well over 15 per cent, and where many more redundancies are in the pipeline.

They believe the company's decision to close its 112-year-old Liverpool base may mean more redundancies on the docks and possibly in some related industries such as brewing, food and confectionery manufacturing.

Tate and Lyle workers have voted unanimously to mount "total resistance" to the closure plans, which are due to take effect in April. They are handing over their individual redundancy notices to shop stewards to pass on to a union action committee set up to fight the closure.

Local MPs are already pressing for a Commons debate and several have signed a motion urging the Government to intervene.

Yesterday shop stewards from the Liverpool refinery were attending a joint meeting in London with stewards from the company's two other plants in Scotland and London.

20,000 UK clothing jobs at risk

From Peter Norman

Brussels, Jan 26

Mr Alec Smith, general secretary of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, today gave a warning that 20,000 jobs, representing 10 per cent of the current labour force, could be lost in the British clothing industry this year.

After a day spent visiting EEC Commission officials as a member of a joint delegation of employers and union leaders from the industry, Mr Smith said that the state of employment in the industry had reached critical proportions.

Part of the blame lay with the domestic policies of the

British Government, he said, but a still greater problem was "the misapplication of current trading arrangements."

Mr Gerald French, a director of the British Clothing Industry Association, said that both sides of the industry detected a lack of will on the part of the commission to gain the best advantage from the quotas of the multi-fibre arrangements, the regime under which international trade in textiles and clothing is regulated.

Mr Smith said that the Commission should act with greater speed, particularly when dumping was alleged. "It should act instead of waiting for the declaration of the sector," he said.



Mr Alec Smith: warning.

Heavy NCB investment in pit automation

From Peter Norman

Brussels, Jan 26

Nuclear methods of sensing coal and underground radar techniques are likely to follow the National Coal Board's present generation of automation systems. This was indicated by Sir Derek Ezra, NCB chairman, during a recent visit to Bagworth Colliery in Leicestershire.

Bagworth has served as an experimental development site for computer-based monitoring and control systems which are being introduced in collieries throughout the country.

Bagworth's Mine Operating Systems (Mivos) controls almost nine miles of underground coal conveyor, starting them up in the correct sequence, continuously monitoring them and stopping them. It also monitors three storage bunkers and pumping operations to keep the mine free from flooding.

The second part of the Bagworth installation is known as Fido (Face Information Digested On-line). This monitors the mining machine each of three goafers, checking whether the machine, with its associated conveyor system, is running or is prevented from cutting coal; and observing the mechanical "health" of the equipment.

This significantly helps to reduce persistent production bottlenecks. Both systems free men from inspection and patrolling duties for productive jobs.

Computer monitoring of mine ventilation is in operation at five other collieries, and development is well advanced

to extend the monitoring technique to the electrical switchgear that supplies power to the mining machines and to ventilation fans.

Sir Derek Ezra, on his visit to Bagworth, said: "We took an old industry and fully mechanized it. Now we are going still further and applying computers and other high-tech technology techniques to improve the performance of machinery and to control the mining environment. This gives management valuable information and close control of operations in a way that has not been possible before."

"We have by no means reached the limit of information and control systems we can apply to our established and proven methods of mining. These include not only the widespread use of computers, but developments that will utilize nuclear coal sensing and radar techniques underground."

Improvements in emulsifying

An improved method of emulsifying liquids which uses electrostatic forces has been developed at Southampton University and is being promoted for industrial use by the National Research Development Corporation.

This platform will be able to support structures weighing up to 50 tonnes. Twelve hydraulic actuators, under closed-loop servo control, are used to move the platform in the three linear axes and to provide rotation about each axis.

Nuclear station earthquake test

An earthquake simulator in which nuclear power station equipment will be tested is to be supplied to the Hydroproject Institute of Moscow by Servotest, part of the Derritron Group. The simulator is a computer-controlled laboratory in which the equipment to be tested will be mounted on a seismic platform six metres square.

Technology News

Emulsification, or the dispersion of fine particles of one liquid into another liquid, is an important process in many manufacturing processes. It is particularly important for aerosol products such as wax polishes, where a small amount of the product needs to be distributed evenly and finely over a large area.

Conventionally a two-stage mechanical process is used, which may suffer from a wide variation in particle size which can lead to creaming or settling. In the Southampton process, now in pilot stage, a high direct voltage (40 kilovolts) is applied to the first liquid as it emerges from a nozzle, producing an atomized spray which is fed into a thin, moving layer of the second liquid.

Servo-control is provided by Moog valves. The full frequency range of seismic disturbances can be reproduced, with rates up to 1.2g in two horizontal axes and 1g in the vertical axis.

Internal coating for pipelines

The ability of sewers to cope with heavy rainstorms can be increased with the injection of synthetic drag-reducing polymers which make possible a faster flow through the pipes. The same principle has been used in drag-reducing paints to move more rapidly through the water; and in additives which speed the flow of oil through the Trans-Alaska pipeline.

Wessex Water Authority is now examining the use of such polymers to increase the carrying capacity of sewers. According to Mr Peter Steel, divisional engineer (development and planning) of the authority, experiments have shown that the mixing of sewer flows with an appropriate polymer additive can increase discharge capacities by at least 25 per cent.

Under the guidance of Dr R. H. J. Sellin of Bristol University, the authority has carried out a series of tests. In three separate schemes, drag reduction of 25 per cent, 40-45 per cent, and 50-55 per cent respectively were demonstrated.

Kenneth Owen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Importance of sugar arrangement

From The High Commissioner for Guyana

Sir, In today's edition (January 23, page 15) you are good enough to quote from the statement I issued on behalf of the governments of the suppliers of cane sugar to Britain expressing our concern about the decision by Tate & Lyle to close its Liverpool refinery. You go on to say that British ministers "were taking a different line" and had pointed out that the remaining capacity of the refineries would only be some 60,000 tonnes below the actual level of inputs from ACP countries last year of around 1.1m tonnes. In fact, according to the statistics I have seen, this last figure should be nearly 82m tonnes. However, my real purpose in writing to you is not to advert to discrepancies in figures cited but rather to explain why the governments of the supplying countries believe that an important principle is at stake if any part of the traditional quantity of sugar supplied to Britain is turned away.

The Brandt Commission have recently highlighted the problems faced by countries which are heavily dependent upon the earnings of primary products. In the case of sugar these stem from two main factors—the high protection accorded to domestic producers of beet sugar and the huge surplus within the EEC. The problems are especially severe for the countries on whose behalf I am writing. Sugar constitutes a large proportion of their exports and provides substantial employment; this is a crucial factor where the incidence of unemployment can be three to five times that of the United Kingdom.

Our governments have warned the British Minister of Agriculture and his predecessor that unless the expansion of British beet sugar production was controlled, or arrangements were made to export surplus beet sugar from Britain, there would no longer be a secure market here for the traditional quantity of cane sugar. Our fears have now proved correct and

some sugar is to be denied access to this market. It is, of course, always possible to seek to argue that the first step towards the abrogation of principle is unimportant in itself. However, we do not see it this way. The guarantees relating to access to Europe for the whole of the quantity covered by the sugar protocol are absolutely specific. In practice their implementation depends overwhelmingly on the British market. Therefore, any erosion of this must seriously undermine the basic guarantees themselves. This is why our governments are resolved to seek to dyke this breach so that the closure of the Liverpool refinery will not prove to be the beginning of the end of the existing cane sugar arrangement with all the distress that this would cause for our countries.

Yours faithfully,
CEDRIC H. GRANT,
High Commissioner for Guyana,
Guyana High Commission,
3 Palace Court, Bayswater Road,
London, W2 4LP.

some sugar is to be denied access to this market. It is, of course, always possible to seek to argue that the first step towards the abrogation of principle is unimportant in itself. However, we do not see it this way. The guarantees relating to access to Europe for the whole of the quantity covered by the sugar protocol are absolutely specific. In practice their implementation depends overwhelmingly on the British market. Therefore, any erosion of this must seriously undermine the basic guarantees themselves. This is why our governments are resolved to seek to dyke this breach so that the closure of the Liverpool refinery will not prove to be the beginning of the end of the existing cane sugar arrangement with all the distress that this would cause for our countries.

Yours faithfully,
CEDRIC H. GRANT,
High Commissioner for Guyana,
Guyana High Commission,
3 Palace Court, Bayswater Road,
London, W2 4LP.

Fisher report proposals

From Mr Colin Baillieu

Sir, I attended the meeting in the Albert Hall in November when the proposals of the Lloyds were reported by an overwhelming majority. I subsequently attended a meeting at Lloyds itself, the purpose of which was to establish an association of external names. The meeting was a shambles and the proposed committee and a list of objectives for the proposed association were rejected. Three people, including the chairman, were asked to leave the room for a sense of politeness and embarrassment—allowed to call themselves a steering committee for the summoning of a future meeting to reconsider the formation of an association.

In this group and many of the rejected committee who are now lobbying against the Lloyds Bill. If that last meeting, attended by less than 100 out of a United Kingdom total of 1,500, was anything to go by, they have very little support from the general run of external members. The group contains members who have suffered considerable losses in the Sassa syndicate. This is not to say that their opposition to clause II which will protect the Council of Lloyds from being sued.

Lady Middleton and her associates want protection, but it is what they want that should not be in Lloyds in the first place. Lloyds is a market of high sophistication and high risk and hopefully for individuals, as well as for the country, high profits. It differs from other markets in one vital respect: as a member of the Lloyds you have unlimited liability. You know this before joining, and you are specifically told so on joining. Those who seek to avoid this unlimited liability should be prepared to die—or at least suffer—for it.

Many of the reservations about the Fisher proposals can be dealt with by the incoming council after the passing of the Bill. Clause 13, however, is fundamental and failure to incorporate it in the Bill will have two disastrous consequences.

First it will begin the petrification of the market processes and lead inevitably to the decline of the country's biggest "invisible" export earner.

Secondly, it will erode the concept of high risk and unlimited liability which ultimately is the only political justification for the sort of profits for which external members like myself join Lloyds.

My fear is that the publicity given to a small group, who are thought to be acting with the kind of wisdom which does not possess, could endanger the work of the Fisher committee and the chairman of Lloyds who are seeking to update the structure of one of Britain's few profitable, thriving, high-technology and high-risk businesses.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN BAILLIEU,
Hoyle Farm, Heyshott,
Midhurst, Sussex,
January 21.

Community investment

From Mr Ilyd Harrington

Sir, I doubt if John Pearce, the President of the Port of Falmouth Chamber of Commerce (January 19) and I have similar ideas on "Local Development Boards". But it was a pleasing coincidence that his views were published on the same day as the TUC advocated using pension funds through an industrial bank.

It is never so often enough that this institution is fiscally and politically the largest unit of "local" government in Europe. Every day the GLC is involved by virtue of its financial role in an enormous number of development and establishing businesses.

Greater London is like Falmouth, in need of economic and social regeneration and so it is appropriate to command the London Labour Party's proposals for local economic development through the best local agency, via the GLC.

Yours sincerely,
ILLYD HARRINGTON,
Deputy Leader of the Opposition,
Greater London Council,
Room 133,
The County Hall,
London SE1 7PB.

VAT and the tourist trade

From Mr Peter C. Cullen

Sir, Mrs Burr (January 22) is asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer to amend the law on VAT for the tourist trade in a way that is, as far as possible, contrary to the EEC directive. Article 13 of the Sixth Directive on Turnover Taxes, paragraph 6 (b), requires member states to exempt (b) the leasing or letting of immovable property excluding

1, the provision of accommodation in the hotel sector.

If Mrs Burr can persuade Brussels to amend the directive she might get some relief, but relief on repairs to property cannot be a better field on which to wage the battle.

Yours faithfully,
PETER C. CULLEN,
113 Tavistock Drive,
Mapperton Park,
Nottingham, NG3 5BE.

Search for the ideal small ship

From Mr E. G. Tattersall

Sir, I was most interested in the article "A big prize for the right 'little ship'" which appeared in *The Times* (November 27, 1980). The problems Mr Julian Taylor raised with regard to speed capabilities and cost are well known and while there is no doubt that improvements in the design of the hull form could lead to marginally more speed and slightly better fuel economies, the higher performance displacement ship is still prohibitively expensive above 30 knots.

The ideal small ship, therefore, should have the following characteristics: a high speed capability substantially more than 30 knots with a form to minimize fuel consumption; a patrol speed, less than 20 knots of long duration being able to stay at sea for a week or more; maintenance of a good speed capability in all but most

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Bargain hunters push equities higher

A small amount of institutional support in a thin market ensures that the new account got off to a firm start yesterday.

Turnover was again described by dealers as low but bargain hunters who felt the market had now been oversold were soon on the scene, forcing prices sharply higher. The absence of sellers in the new account was another contributory factor as most decided to hold on to their stock after the improvement in sentiment.

Investors, frightened of being left behind, gave a boost to electricals and insurance shares while oil made a welcome return to favour.

The only real weakness was again seen in gold shares which fell heavily when the renewed weakness in the bullion price, down \$23 at \$529, on reports of heavy selling of gold in Hong Kong and the Far East. Nevertheless, jobbers described selling as limited with the thin conditions helping.

The FT Index, which was 1.9 higher at 10 am, closed at its high point for the day up 8.2 at 463.9.

Gills made a hesitant start after earlier weakness on Friday night when the Coverdell Broker announced a new £1,000m "tap". Falls of around £1 were reported as investors sold stock to raise cash for the new issue which is expected to be heavily subscribed.

However, buyers appeared after hours and prices quickly recovered in the thin conditions.

In London, there were rises of about £1 to £1.50, but at the shorter end falls of £1 were

recorded mainly on lack of interest.

Leading industrialists spent a rather quiet session but prices hardened in line with the rest of the market. ICI led the way up with a 4p rise at 288p along with Glaxo at 256p. Smaller rises were seen in Bechems at 169p, Unilever at 443p, Fisons at 130p and GKN at 141p. But fears of lay-offs in the motor industry clipped 1p from Dunlop at 62p and 3p from Lucas at 165p.

Elsewhere, there were plenty of special situations to keep investors' interests alive, including Associated Newspapers' bid for the remainder of the Bristol Evening Post it does not already own.

Shares of BCF leapt to 185p after the 190p share offer but retreated to close at 168p amid fears of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission reference. This was a net rise of 62p. Associated ended the day 5p lighter at 235p.

Shares of Reed International hardened to 184p ahead of figures today, which in turn boosted Bowater 5p to 191p.

Speculative attention was also directed at I. Barget, up 28p at 118p, as hopes that Tinsol was about to launch a full-scale bid. Fitchard Services also enjoyed a 4p rise to 124p. R. P. Martin eased 5p to 174p on news that talks with Bierbaum, which holds 15 per cent, had broken down.

Davy Corporation was another weak market, slipping another 4p to 149p on the back of its recent decision to sue its unwanted United States predator, Enserch. However, shares of Renwick were suspended

after hours at 78p as talk of a bid by Kangra did the rounds. Awaiting figures later today, Iuchase slid 8p to 315p while GEC rose 10p to 355p on a bullish brokers' circular.

Improvements were also seen in Plessey of 6p to 273p, and Ferranti 15p to 475p, while among second liners Rode Int advanced 13p to 253p and Mainhead 8p to 78p.

Mercantile House rallied 20p to close at 570p after interim figures, while a return to the black had tumbled Riley 3p dearer at 52p. But the half time announcement from Kaku resulted in a 5p fall to 50p.

Insurance shares featured the placing of 4.75m shares in Royal Insurance, the jump of its recent £113m rights issue. The shares were placed at 345p or 6p below yesterday's closing levels. GRE rose 8p to 300p, General Accident 8p to 298p and Eagle Star 7p to 248p.

Oil recovered on rumours that President Reagan was about to deregulate oil prices. Rises among the majors had BP 12p higher at 402p, Ultramar 8p to 483p, Lasso 5p to 674p and Ticonderoga 5p to 302p.

Among second liners KCA International rose 6p to 163p and IC Gas 10p to 238p while rumours of a bid for Carless Capel up 12p at 175p and Candecia up 11p to 215p.

Sharp falls in gold shares saw Randfontein £6 3/16 to £24 15/16, Western Holdings £3 1/2 to £26, and Buffersfontein £2 1/16 to £14.

Equity turnover on January 23 was £129.86m (18,027 bargains). The most active stocks, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Ultramar, BP, Premier Oil, European Ferries, GEC, ICI, Royal Insurance, Land Securities, Midland Bank, De Beers, RTZ, Distillers and Allied Breweries.

Traded options had a dull day in spite of better equity prices. Only 665 contracts were traded, with Lough and ICI seeing the most business.

Traditional options had a quiet day. Calls were arranged in Elsborg Gold at 24p, Britannia Arrow at 5p and Simmer and Jack at 25p.

Return to profits at Stroud, Riley

By Margaret Pagano

Management reshuffles and vigorous restructuring over the last year have succeeded in turning round the loss-making Bradford textile manufacturer Stroud, Riley, Drummond.

In the half year to September the group reported a profit of £115,000 compared with a loss of £135,000 in the full year to March 31, 1980. The group lost £62,000. After tax, losses were £194,000. This included an extraordinary item of £108,000. The interim gross dividend is doubled to 1.42p. The shares gained 3p to 52p on the news.

Mr Stefan Simmonds, chief executive and deputy chairman, said the results reflected the work of the new management team and restructuring carried out in the last year. Trading conditions had continued to be tough but by cutting overheads and using assets the group was able to make headway.

Last year's results included a major cost-cutting exercise, redundancies and closures, when the workforce was halved to 200 employees and its spinning business closed. Although demand for the group's staple manufactures of worsted suit, and knitted fabrics has not picked up, margins have improved.

There is a "strong probability" that Mr Simmonds, the largest shareholder with 29.9 per cent of the equity, will soon take up his option for a further 9.2 per cent of the shares, at 42p each.

Renwick suspended amid rumours of Kangra bid

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Shares in Renwick Group were suspended yesterday at 78p, pending an announcement, amid speculation that the mysterious Kangra International Holdings is about to bid. Renwick's merchant bankers, Samuel Montagu, hoped to make an announcement today.

Kangra, a Hong Kong-based company, has built up a 27.5 per cent stake in Renwick by aggressive market purchases through stockbrokers. A. J. Bekhor, paying as much as 85p a share. This buying, combined with earlier large purchases by Bekhor on behalf of Uto Bank 65p a share, had taken AAE, the industrial holding company, made for fuel distribution to travel agents group Renwick.

AAH's offer lapsed earlier this month, although it still holds over 10 per cent of Renwick.



Mr Clifford Wilton, chairman of Renwick Group.

Uto Bank holds 22.5 per cent on behalf of six clients said to be unrelated and 200,000 shares itself. Several attempts to discover the prime movers behind Kangra, an off-the-shelf company formed last April, came to nothing but Renwick directors are thought to have met Kangra yesterday. Under Take-over Panel rules Kangra would have to bid not less than the highest price it has paid in the market, suggesting a price of at least £7.6m for the ordinary shares in Renwick.

AAH, which owns Western Fuels in partnership with Renwick, recently rejected an approach for its stake, thought to come from Kangra, so that "we can talk to them from a position of strength", Mr William Pybus, the chairman, said.

Mr Pybus said it was intolerable that the record behind Kangra and the Uto Holdings were unknown and both the Stock Exchange and Take-over Panel should be much tougher. The Takeover Panel looked into the Uto shares but found no evidence of a concerted party.

Hallite rises 13pc midway

Hallite Holdings, the precision seal maker has once again sidestepped the engineering recession. Sales in the half year to November 1 rose by 11 per cent in value to £4.2m while pretax profits were ahead by 13 per cent to £343,000.

The interim dividend stays at 3.58p gross. Earnings a share rose from 7.6p to 8.5p. The group does a lot of business in deep cold mining and oil well drilling, and it has recently launched new lines.

It is also clear that Hallite has succeeded in controlling costs. In the financial year to

Briefly

Westminster Property Group: Mr A. P. Ravenhill (chairman) says in annual report that with falling interest and inflation rates, he looks forward with some confidence to the future even if 1981 has its difficulties.

Oakwood Group: Mr E. D. Chambers, chairman, says that the current order book remains at a satisfactory level for the civil and electrical engineering activities, and whilst continuing difficult trading conditions are affecting wholesaling activities, a strong financial position provides a sound platform for any upturn should it occur during the year ahead.

Grants of Croydon: Mr Alec Grant, chairman, states that trading in the second half year is up by 5 per cent and although the January sales are below the period leading up to Christmas was disappointing. With continued reappraisal and cut-back of unprofitable activities, a reduction in expenses should help in what he hopes is a temporary depression in retail trade.

Consolidated Gold Fields: On January 23, De Beers and Anglo American Corp each acquired an interest in an additional 75,000 ordinary shares, so that each now holds a total of 150,000 ordinary shares. The De Beers-Anglo stake in Consolidated Gold now stands at about 29 per cent of its 18m shares.

Bamber-Stores: Newly-acquired subsidiary Evan Roberts has agreed with an institution for sale and lease-back of retail department stores at the corner of Queen Street and Kingsway, Cardiff. Competition is arranged for February 23 and total consideration is £1.5m.

Piccadilly Theatre: Turnover for the year to September 30, 1980, £172,000 (£188,000 for previous nine months). Pretax profits, £100,000 (£117,500). Dividend, 2.85p (2.14p) gross.

Midland Trust: Pretax income for half-year to December 31, 1980, £216,000 (£207,000). Interim dividend unchanged at 12.5p.

Winterbottom Trust: NAV a share on January 23, 35.6p, after deduction of prior charges at par and 25.7p, after deduction of prior charges at market value.

Marley: Through its subsidiary, Marley Buildings, Marley has agreed to acquire the domestic gas-fuelled block business of True Flux Ltd.

Norcor: An extraordinary meeting of Norcor approved a resolution increasing the authorized capital from £26.5m to £34m, thus permitting the one-for-four rights issue of ordinary shares announced on January 9, 1981, to proceed.

Brooke Bond—Mallinson-Denny

Brooke Bond Liebig's offer for Mallinson-Denny has been accepted for 50.35m existing ordinary shares, or 94.56 per cent. Brooke Bond owned 21.35m shares before the offer, which, together with acceptances, totals 71.71m shares, or 96.12 per cent. The preference offer was accepted for 1.54m shares, or 83.27 per cent.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crds	14%
C. Hoare & Co	14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
Rosminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and over 11.5% over £50,000 12.5%.

Southampton hotel for Queens Moat group

Contracts have been exchanged for Queens Moat Houses to buy the Cotswold Hotel, Southampton, from Gileys Hotels and Catering, a subsidiary of Bank Leumi, controlled by Messrs Frank and Roger Gilley. The price will be £900,000 cash.

This first take-over of 1981 indicates Queens Moat's aim to continue to expand its commercial hotel group as rapidly as possible. The Cotswold brings the number of hotels in the commercial group to 22.

Property purchases by Anglo Metropolitan Holdings

Anglo Metropolitan Holdings has agreed to buy 50 shares of Redington Property, Rankenford Property and Reddite Properties. The total price is £70,000 cash. These are private residential property firms whose combined portfolio comprises about 150 residential units, mainly in London.

Maguire & Paterson receive takeover bid

Maguire and Paterson, Dublin-based match manufacturers, have been notified by Irish financial adviser that True Temper (Ireland) is to make an offer of £2.10 (Irish) for every outstanding ordinary stock unit of Maguire.

Business appointments

BP Group names eight chairmen

Chairmen named by the BP Group for eight distinct international businesses and the New Ventures Group are: Mr C. G. F. Laidlaw, BP Oil International; Mr R. B. B. Exploration and Production; Mr J. Walters, BP Chemicals International; Dr J. B. B. BP Minerals International; Mr R. C. A. B. B. BP Nutrition and BP Petroleum International; Mr R. W. Adam, BP Ventures. All appointments will take effect from March 1.

Mr Patrick Meenan becomes a director of ICI from March 1. Sir Patrick, who is managing director of Thomas Tilling, will act as a non-executive director.

Mr Alan W. Wagstaff will be the new chairman and chief executive of Totol.

Mr Graham J. Clarke has been named a director of Fairley Aulay Marine, a member of Greyhound Holdings group of companies, and general manager of Fairley Aulay Marine. Mr Clarke was formerly executive assistant to the chairman of British Shipbuilders.

Mr John Patterson is now sales director of Nexos (United Kingdom) and Mr Trevor Lafferty has been made field service director. Lord Wigoder has been elected to the board of governors of the British United Provident Association.

Tollgate sells subsidiaries

Tollgate Holdings of South Africa has sold its financial and insurance subsidiaries for Rand 9.8m (about £4.5m) and R11m (£5.5m) respectively.

In addition, an amount of R27.2m, which was advanced to the financial subsidiaries has been refunded to the group.

The directors have decided to concentrate the group's endeavours on transportation operations and to distribute R48m to Tollgate shareholders.

Nabisco up sharply

Net profits of Nabisco, the American foods group, rose by almost a third from \$99.8m to \$127.8m (£53m) in the 1980 financial year, the group reported yesterday.

Sales advanced from \$2,360m to \$2,580m. Earnings a share rose to \$3.95 from \$3.10. The 1980 profits figure

Cooper Ind omits interim after loss

By Margaret Pagano

The West Midlands engineer and stockholder, Cooper Industries, plunged into the red in the half year to October and has passed the interim dividend.

Losses of £496,000 in the six months compared with pretax profits last time of £380,000. Sales fell steeply from £12m to £9m. Last year the interim dividend was 0.85p gross.

Mr John Cooper, the chairman, said the company had suffered a "substantial reduction in demand for steel" for the group's losses. The downturn in demand, together with high interest rates, had had a profit margin, and led to destocking within the steel industry, he said. With hopes that steeling has now ended, the group looks to a better second half, when the dividend will be reviewed.

Profits from associated companies were £34,000.

Last month Cooper sold its half share of the mini-mill held jointly with P. H. Lloyd, the steel and engineering group, for £2m. The move had looked possible ever since Cooper decided not to join in a similar partnership in Lloyd's new

Wendesbury mill which is now near completion. The mini-mill was only working at a loss, running at a slight loss, and Cooper's decision to sell came from its assessment of the steel industry's current prospects.

Mr John Stone is now a director of Williams & Morrow, a sales director of Clipper International.

Mr Maurice Steinhart has joined the board of the Sentinel Insurance Company.

Mr Paul Gardner has been appointed a deputy divisional chairman of the case and paper division of Mardon Packaging International.

Mr R. E. Artus has been appointed to the board of the Mercantile and General Reinsurance Company.

Mr R. S. Harveys has been appointed deputy chairman of J. A. Devenish and Co.

Mr Keith J. Willoughby has been appointed a non-executive director of Cerecort Rothmans.

Mr Geoffrey N. H. Furland has joined Saudi International Bank as assistant general manager responsible for treasury operations.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1980/81	1980/81	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Div'd	Yld	P/E
75	39	Airsprung Group	65	+1	6.7	10.3	5.9
43	21	Armstrong & Rhodes	43	+1	1.4	3.3	17.7
192	92	Bardon Hill	189	—	9.7	5.1	7.1
87	38	County Cars Pref	38	—	—	—	—
98	38	Deborah's Pref	96	—	5.5	5.7	4.8
126	88	Frank Horsell	114	—	6.4	5.6	3.6
110	56	Frederick Parker	56	-1	10.0	19.6	2.6
110	74	George Blair	78	+1	3.1	4.0	—
110	59	Jackson Group	107	—	6.9	6.4	4.1
124	103	James Burroughs	119	—	7.9	6.6	9.7
334	244	Robert Jenkins	331	-3	31.3	9.5	—
53	50	Scotsons 'A'	53	—	5.3	10.0	3.8
224	216	Torday Limited	217	—	15.1	7.0	3.7
23	10	Twinkl Ord	124	—	—	—	—
90	69	Twinkl 15% ULS	76	-1	15.0	19.7	—
56	35	Unilever Holdings	36	—	3.0	8.3	5.6
102	81	Walker Alexander	101	—	5.7	5.6	5.5
255	181	W. S. Yeates	254	—	12.1	4.7	—

Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica-ENEL

(Italian National Electric Energy Agency)

7 1/2 Per Cent 15-Year Guaranteed Bonds of 1970

Due March 1, 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, on behalf of Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica-ENEL, that on March 1, 1981, \$3,000,000 principal amount of its 7 1/2 Per Cent 15-Year Guaranteed Bonds of 1970 will be redeemed out of moneys to be held by it in the Dillon, Read & Co. Principal Paying Agent, pursuant to the mandatory annual redemption requirement of said Bonds and to the relevant Authenticating Agency Agreement and Paying Agency Agreement, each dated as of March 1, 1970. The United States National Bank (National Association), as Authenticating Agent, has selected, by lot, for such redemption the Bonds bearing the following serial numbers:

BONDS SELECTED FOR REDEMPTION

2	2048	3239	5051	7244	9044	10784	12640	14541	16383	18341	20300	22260	24220	26180	28140	30100	32060	34020	35980	37940	39900	41860	43820	45780	47740	49700	51660	53620	55580	57540	59500	61460	63420	65380	67340	69300	71260	73220	75180	77140	79100	81060	83020	84980	86940	88900	90860	92820	94780	96740	98700	100660	102620	104580	106540	108500	110460	112420	114380	116340	118300	120260	122220	124180	126140	128100	130060	132020	133980	135940	137900	139860	141820	143780	145740	147700	149660	151620	153580	155540	157500	159460	161420	163380	165340	167300	169260	171220	173180	175140	177100	179060	181020	182980	184940	186900	188860	190820	192780	194740	196700	198660	200620	202580	204540	206500	208460	210420	212380	214340	216300	218260	220220	222180	224140	226100	228060	230020	231980	233940	235900	237860	239820	241780	243740	245700	247660	249620	251580	253540	255500	257460	259420	261380	263340	265300	267260	269220	271180	273140	275100	277060	279020	280980	282940	284900	286860	288820	290780	292740	294700	296660	298620	300580	302540	304500	306460	308420	310380	312340	314300	316260	318220	320180	322140	324100	326060	328020	330020	331980	333940	335900	337860	339820	341780	343740	345700	347660	349620	351580	353540	355500	357460	359420	361380	363340	365300	367260	369220	371180	373140	375100	377060	379020	380980	382940	384900	386860	388820	390780	392740	394700	396660	398620	400580	402540	404500	406460	408420	410380	412340	414300	416260	418220	420180	422140	424100	426060	428020	430020	431980	433940	435900	437860	439820	441780
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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 26. Dealings End, Feb 6. § Contango Day, Feb 9. Settlement Day, Feb 16
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

Delay in arbitration no reason for court to grant injunction

remer Vulkan Schiffbau und Maschinenfabrik v South India Shipping Corporation

Lord Diplock, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Fraser of Tullycarnish, Lord Russell of Killowen and Lord Scarman

speeches delivered January 22

Where parties to a contract have agreed to refer any disputes which arise under the contract to arbitration, the agreement is contractual and voluntary; and the High Court may not grant an injunction to restrain claimants from pursuing their claims on the ground that they have been in delay in referring the dispute to arbitration.

The House of Lords, Lord Fraser and Lord Scarman dissenting, agreed in allowing an appeal by respondents, South India Shipping Corporation, incorporated in India, against the order of the High Court, made by Lord Justice Goff, dated November 28, 1979, granting an injunction restraining the claimants from pursuing their claims on the ground that they had been in delay in referring the dispute to arbitration.

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In April, 1972, the parties agreed to refer any disputes which arise under the contract to arbitration. The agreement was contractual and voluntary; and the High Court may not grant an injunction to restrain claimants from pursuing their claims on the ground that they have been in delay in referring the dispute to arbitration.

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There was no more than make a choice between one of two courses of action, the commercial judge, by whom the case would be decided. There was no reason, they submitted, why the consequences of delay should not be the same in both cases; what was good for the goose was good for the gander. The argument broke down on the facts. The parties had, by adopting the English arbitration clause, substituted a remedy by English arbitration, not for a remedy by action in the English courts but for a remedy by action in German or, some other foreign court.

The argument also failed on a broader ground. There was a whole jurisdiction of proceedings in arbitrations for the resolution of disputes, most of which did not relate to the delay in referring the dispute to arbitration. It must apply to all arbitrations under an English arbitration clause and not merely to those in which the actual dispute referred to arbitration was of a kind where it was likely that the proceedings would follow much the same pattern as they would in a High Court action.

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Legal Appointments

Legal Adviser

Energy Engineering

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We are looking for a qualified lawyer with a number of years' experience in corporate legal work, either in the profession or in a multinational company. As much of the work will be with Latin America and Spain, the candidate must speak Spanish. The company will pay a salary commensurate with qualifications and experience of the person appointed. In addition, we will pay an annual bonus and return airfare to the United Kingdom for holidays. The company will pay all relocation costs to Amsterdam.

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Holland Chemical International Ltd.,
P.O. Box 1888,
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HONG KONG

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